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ONLINE NEWS & SPORT: KENTNEWS.CO.UK | **CAMPAIGN:** KEEP KENT WORKING **PAGES 24-25** **FREE**

Developer 'fire sale' threatens recovery

KCC ALARMED BY SEEDA ASSETS SELL-OFF RULING

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a "fire sale" of 49 of Kent's most important development sites could hamper the county's economic recovery.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
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The multi-million-pound assets are all owned by the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), which had hoped to transfer them to local authority control ahead of it being wound up next year.

But the Government has ruled that the assets – which include important regeneration sites at Chatham Maritime, Northfleet and Ashford town centre – must instead be sold to the highest bidder.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter warned the move could lead to long-held development plans being torn up.

He said: "There's a grave danger that some of these sites, where land assembly has been going on for more than five years, will be broken up again and fall into the hands of developers who will sit on them and treat them as land banks. I understand if local government wants to buy these assets then we can, but people need to realise we haven't got any money. The alternative is the Homes and Communities Agency, but they haven't got any money either.

"Obviously, the Government is stuck for money as well, so I do have some understanding there, but they and Seeda should be being selective and making sure broader regeneration projects are exempt from the sale."

The decision to sell the assets of all eight of the UK's regional development agencies could raise more than £500 million for the Treasury. Many local authorities had been urging the Government to transfer the assets to their care

Continued on page two

Picture: MATT BRISTOW/www.rubberduckdoes.com

RISING TO CHANNEL CHALLENGE

For full details see inside

Train action plan wins KCC support

COUNTY Hall's cabinet has given its backing to a crucial overhaul of rail services which could see every main town in Kent with regular peak period trains to West End and City stations.

The Rail Action Plan looks to make vital changes to the much-criticised network.

FULL STORY - SEE PAGE 2

Tracey and Jools will open Turner

COUNTDOWN to the opening of the Turner Contemporary is under way.

It opens its doors next Saturday, and this week confirmed artist Tracey Emin and musician Jools Holland will be the star turns to open the eagerly-anticipated £17 million venue in Margate.

FULL STORY – SEE PAGES 8&9

Bishop's cultural concerns shared

THE new Bishop of Rochester has defended controversial comments made by his predecessor that some communities have become "no-go areas" for non-Muslims.

According to the Rt Reverend James Langstaff, previous head of the diocese Dr Michael Nazir-Ali was justified in voicing his concerns about the impact of cultural segregation in the UK.

FULL STORY – SEE PAGES 18-19

Comic on display

COMEDIAN Vic Reeves is to unveil a surreal art collection of playfully deranged paintings.

The presenter of Shooting Stars will put on display a collection of more than 200 pieces at The Grand on the Leas in Folkestone.

It will be jointly presented with TV's Antiques Man host, Michael Hogben.

FULL STORY – SEE PAGE 10

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Sale of assets 'bad news for Kent'

Continued from front page

on the understanding that cash-strapped councils would pay for them once their finances were in better order.

During a visit to Kent this week, Labour's shadow business secretary John Denham said it was "outrageous" that ministers had blocked the proposals.

The former local government minister spoke to KoS after being shown around one of Seeda's most important assets, the former TT Electronics site in Northfleet, which is part of the £18m Northfleet Embankment regeneration project.

He said: "This fire sale is typical of a Tory-led government that prizes short-term fixes over long-term, sustainable growth and with no concept of the scale of the challenge the country is facing.

"For these assets to be flogged off at the lowest possible price is bad news for the people of Kent.

"Passing ownership of them to local authorities would have enabled them to push on with creating new homes, businesses and jobs while building up the value of the land. I don't think we can afford to delay the developments because we're getting out of the recession far too slowly."

Seeda is one of the victims of the Coalition's so-called "bonfire of the quangos" and is due to close by April 2012.

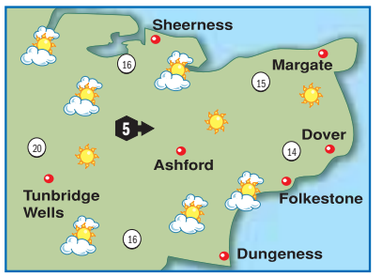
In its place will rise Local Enterprise Partnerships, including one that already exists to promote the interests of Kent, Essex and East Sussex.

Mr Denham said a golden opportunity to pass Seeda's assets on to the LEP had now been squandered.

He added: "The Government hasn't given the LEPs any money, resources or land, and they have no budgets or legal powers. It therefore seems impossible for them to have any real say.

"Here was a chance to give the LEPs a flying start, but instead the Government says 'we don't trust you and we know best'."

Kent today



TODAY: It looks set to be fine, as it will be dry with long spells of sunshine and little in the way of cloud. Warm, with a light and variable breeze. Max temp 17-20C (63-68F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear spells and variable cloud amounts. Gentle easterly winds. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	17	63	London	fair	20	68
Belfast	cloudy	15	59	Liverpool	cloudy	14	57
Birmingham	cloudy	18	64	Manchester	fair	16	61
B'mouth	cloudy	19	66	Newcastle	fair	18	64
Bristol	fair	14	57	Norwich	fair	18	64
Cardiff	fair	16	61	Oxford	fair	19	66
Cork	cloudy	14	57	Southsea	fair	17	63
Edinburgh	cloudy	16	61	S'hampton	fair	18	64
Glasgow	cloudy	14	57	Southport	cloudy	13	55
Isle of Man	cloudy	13	55	Swansea	cloudy	12	54
Leeds	fair	16	61	Torquay	fair	14	57

Sun & moon

Sunrise 6.11am Sunset 7.43pm
Moonrise 10.06am Moonset 2.01am
Lighting up times: 7.43pm to 6.09am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	03.14	5.9	15.48	5.8	04.14	5.6	17.00	5.5
Margate	04.33	4.3	16.47	4.1	05.24	4.1	17.50	3.9
St Mary's	09.22	4.6	21.47	4.6	10.24	4.4	22.58	4.4

Week ahead

monday Sunny spells. max 18C min 6C
thursday Rather cloudy. max 14C min 6C
tuesday Variable cloud. max 15C min 6C
friday Patchy rain. max 13C min 5C
wednesday Sunny spells. max 15C min 6C
saturday Bright spells. max 13C min 4C

Improved rail services key to growth, says KCC

By **MARIJKE COX**
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COUNTY Hall's cabinet has given its backing to a crucial overhaul of rail services, which could see every main town in Kent with regular peak period trains to West End and City stations.

The ground-breaking Rail Action Plan, drawn up by transport chiefs at Kent County Council, looks to make vital changes to the much-criticised network when the franchise is introduced in 2014.

Key requirements set out in the plan were endorsed by the ruling Tory executive this week, paving the way for a long-awaited shake-up of services.

Southeastern has come in for criticism for the level of service it offers commuters.

It is hoped the new strategy will heavily influence the company awarded the next franchise deal.

As well as regular peak-period mainline trains to stations such as Charing Cross and Victoria and Blackfriars or Cannon Street, councillors backed plans to reduce waiting times on connecting trains in areas including Dover and Folkestone, as well as slashing journey times on mainline services on the berated North Kent line.

Other improvements include:

- An hourly service between Maidstone East and Blackfriars to enhance connections to the City.
- Improving high speed and mainline services though Sittingbourne on the Sheerness branch, with particular focus on removing existing long connection periods.
- Extending the high speed service from Dover Priory to Ramsgate via Deal and Sandwich.
- Developing a parkway station at Manston as well as enhanced routes between Ashford and Thanet.
- High speed services from Maidstone West to run all day, including stops at Maidstone Barracks and Snodland.
- The introduction of a new Smartcard ticketing service for bus and rail users.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK?: Hopes high Rail Action Plan will enhance furture services

The report also looks to stop the replacement of Cannon Street services from Hastings via Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks with Thameslink which would limit how far trains could run into Kent.

An all-day hourly service through Gatwick, Tonbridge and Ashford, was also approved, although this would not be part of the new franchise, but carried out in partnership by Gatwick Airport Ltd and the new rail contract holder.

Cabinet member for environment, highways and waste at KCC, Cllr Bryan Sweetland, said the authority needed to ensure the right conditions were in place for the economic regeneration and growth that is required in Kent.

"Only from economic growth can we provide for our children's future and create the opportunities for business, education, employment and leisure that are so crucial to the life of Kent and its people," he said.

"The rail service is a key driver of these noble objectives.

"A modern, efficient, safe, punctual and reliable rail service that takes people where they need to go at a time of day that meets their needs is central to the transport objectives of Kent County Council.

"Only by ensuring the provision of good rail links to the right London termini, and between stations within Kent, can we enjoy a rail service that not only meets the needs of today's travellers, but that is able to respond to the ever-increasing pressures of tomorrow's passengers too."

He added: "KCC will work hard to stand up for Kent's residents and commuters, acting as a community leader, influencing the decision-making process which will result in the award of an integrated Kent franchise in 2014.

"We must all ensure that, whoever is the provider, Kent will enjoy the very best rail service which will meet the needs of all its residents and visitors."

The current contract holder Southeastern has been criticised by MPs and campaigners for poor services and staggering price increases, but last month its franchise was extended by two years.

To see the full Rail Action Plan go to www.kent.gov.uk/railactionplan.

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Picture: MATT BRISTOW

Record-breakers rise to Channel challenge

A WORLD record is set to be confirmed after 50 hot-air balloons completed a flight across the English Channel.

Organiser Steve Richards described the take-off from Lydden Hill race circuit, near Canterbury, as a "cacophony of noise, action and colour".

The balloonists, who came from across the UK and Europe, launched at 7am on Thursday and arrived in Calais within four hours.

Mr Richards, director of Airborne Balloon Flights, organised the attempt along with Ian Sharpe, a retired police officer from Surrey.

He said the crossing was being confirmed by Guinness World Records , but 50 balloons made it to France, beating the current record of 35.

Describing the take-off, he said: "It went from peaceful to a cacophony of noise, action and colour. Once the balloons launched it went quiet again and there were fantastic balloons dotted all over the skyline – various shapes and sizes.

"I drove to Dover for the ferry crossing and you could see them all over the Channel. It looked quite surreal."

Mr Richards was responsible for organising the last record-breaking crossing five years ago.

He said this event had taken a year of organising, including speaking to air-traffic controllers, coastguards and waiting for the right conditions.

In total, 51 balloons started the attempt, but one had to land before reaching the Channel due to technical difficulties.

After the crossing, jubilant balloonists were popping champagne corks. Mr Richards said: "There was a party going on in Calais."

Sponsorship from the event will go to the RNLI, the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Halow Project, which supports young people with learning disabilities.

Riders backed by chef Rhodes

CELEBRITY chef Gary Rhodes has sent a message of support to riders taking part in the Pilgrims Hospices' Cycle Challenge.

The former Thanet College catering student send a signed photo congratulating participants and wishing them well.

Last year, 600 riders raised £68,000 through challenges across east Kent.

There is a 75-mile route between the hospices in Ashford, Thanet and Canterbury, or 45 and 47-mile routes available. To take part, see www.pilgrimscyclechallenge.org.

Housing bonus

COUNCILS are being urged to invite residents to have their say on how £7.9 million of 'new homes bonus' cash can be spent in their area.

Housing minister Grant Shapps called on Kent's local authorities to speak to communities about how to use the cash, which was awarded to the county for growth on a money-for-new-homes basis.

The Government scheme looks to reward councils with funding for local services when homes are built.

The first payment – totalling £7.9m for Kent councils – was awarded this week.

Here be dragons and watery fun

THE Dragon Boat Festival is set to return to Bewl Water for its 14th year this summer and organisers are hoping to hit the £2 million fund-raising mark.

Over the years, 10,000 paddlers have taken to decorative longboats and raised money for more than 200 charities at the scenic reservoir, near Lamberhurst.

Funraisers, the group which organises the charity event, has launched its annual appeal for teams to take part in the festival, on September 17 and 18.

Towns' starring role

FACE TO FACE: Romola Garai and Gillian Anderson in The Crimson Petal and The White

VIEWERS enjoying the debut this week of the BBC's star-studded new drama may have been forgiven for being a little confused, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Because although The Crimson Petal and The White explores the underbelly of 19th century London, there are some well known Kent landmarks taking starring roles.

Aside from the acting talent of the likes of Gillian Anderson – Scully in the X Files; and Withnail and I's Richard E Grant – the show features buildings from Medway.

Keep your eyes peeled over the coming month for scenes shot at Eastgate House in Rochester, which was depicted as a brothel, and Chatham Historic Dockyard, where the church is used as the location where a corpse is discovered.

Both venues feature heavily in the TV drama, which started on Wednesday.

The Crimson Petal and The White is an intimate psychological thriller, adapted from Michel Faber's best-selling 2002 novel.

The four-part series exposes the harrowing life of a prostitute in Victorian London.

Medway is no stranger to both the large and small screen. Scenes for Guy Ritchie's Sherlock Holmes movie – starring Robert Downey Jnr – were filmed at the dockyard.

In the past, Great Expectations, The Bank Job, The Golden Compass, Children of Men, The World is Not Enough, and The Mummy have all been filmed in the towns.

Richard Hicks, Medway Council's assistant director for leisure and culture, said: "Medway has a lot to offer film and television producers. With its rich history and maritime heritage, there are many fascinating local stories to tell, along with stunning backdrops. Proximity to London is also a bonus."

The drama's title is from an 1847 poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson, Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal. The opening line is 'Now sleeps the crimson petal, now the white'.

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DE VERE VILLAGE

Flying school's latest students take to the air

TAWNY owls Falcor and Gimli are being put through their paces at Canterbury's Wildwood wildlife centre. The pair are in training to take part in flying displays at the park.

TAKE OFF: Falcor takes to the skies, while Gimli, left, has a rest

Shadow minister critcises health reform plans

SHADOW health minister Derek Twigg has criticised the Government's NHS reforms, saying plans for a £2 billion re-organisation were "reckless".

In the week the Government admitted it was going to put the overhaul on pause, the MP for Halton also voiced his fears that hospital waiting times would rise under the coalition's plans, which include transferring responsibility of commissioning services from primary care trusts to GPs.

His comments came during a visit to Dover and former MP for the constituency Gwyn Prosser – who held the seat for 13 years until 2010 – to rally support for Labour in preparation for the district elections next month.

Mr Twigg said he had confidence the party would make a comeback in Kent.

"People here are concerned about changes to health services," he said. "This is one of the biggest re-organisations when the country is in a difficult financial position. The proposals are reckless."

The coalition's plans involve phasing out primary care trusts and giving GPs responsibility over the NHS budget. They have come under fire from GPs, who believe it would put strain on doctor-patient relationships and introduce unnecessary competition in healthcare.

Mr Twigg's visit coincided with the launch of a counterproposal to the reform by the Commons' health select committee which proposed that consortia of GPs should instead become NHS Commissioning Authorities involving stakeholders including nurses, social care representatives and hospital doctors.

Mr Twigg said: "What people want to see is continued improvements – we shouldn't be spending £2 billion."

Care firm crisis 'won't put elderly on street'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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ELDERLY residents of Kent's Southern Cross care homes have been assured they will not end up on the streets over the firm's financial problems.

The group announced last month that it had held talks with the Government about its money worries, leading to concerns it could be forced into administration.

Southern Cross runs 10 care homes in the county – five of which specialise in dementia care – prompting fears from those who have loved ones using their services.

But regional director Mark Cash says they have no need to panic.

"I would like to reassure people that residents in our care homes do not face the prospect of being made homeless," he said.

"As a public limited company, Southern Cross Healthcare must keep investors informed of changes to our business outlook if they differ from previous statements.

"We continue to face challenges, because fewer people are being placed in our homes by local authorities, many of whom are seeking to reduce the fee levels they pay.

"We are taking action to ensure our business remains sustainable. We are also urging the Government, landlords and commissioners to work co-operatively in supporting us."

Southern Cross provides care to more than 31,000 people throughout the UK, but says recent budget cuts mean its rent burden is "unsustainable". It warned that it was in danger of defaulting on its debts, but that it was in discussions about a restructuring.

Kent County Council pays about £2 million a year to fund the care of 85 elderly people living in five of Southern Cross' 10 Kent care homes: Elvy Court in Sittingbourne, Highfield in Canterbury, Kingsfield in Faversham, and Fairfield Manor and Woodlands, both in Broadstairs.

Cabinet member for adult social services, Cllr Graham Gibbens, said the council would continue to monitor the situation.

Continuity

He added: "Our officers are talking to the company to make sure we can help to provide continuity in care."

News of the firm's financial troubles darkens the gloom hanging over Kent's elderly population, who are already reeling from KCC's decision to close, demolish or sell a further 11 council-run care homes.

The county's five remaining Southern Cross homes are based in Medway and on the London border.

They are Copper Beeches in Rochester, Frindsbury Hall in Strood, Adelaide in Bexleyheath, and Lauriston House and St Raphael's, both in Bromley.

Medway Council says it pays £1.6m to fund the care of 49 residents at Copper Beeches and Frindsbury Hall.

A spokesman said: "We are aware of the recent news stories surrounding the financial situation at Southern Cross, and are in discussions to ensure they are properly provided for."

TV presenter-turned-campaigner Esther Rantzen came to the county on Wednesday.

The celebrity, best known for presenting TV's That's Life and founding the successful Childline telephone helpline, was in Dover to visit volunteers who help immigrants and asylum seekers held in a detention centre.

She spoke of the importance of the work charities such as the Dover Detainee Visitor Group (DDVG) do, and the important contribution immigrants can make to the country.

Miss Rantzen, whose own family came to the UK from pre-Second World War Poland, said: "I believe it is sometimes underestimated the contribution that asylum seekers and others make.

"Sometimes they are the cleverest, the most perceptive, the ones who won't go along with a corrupt regime. Not always, but sometimes.

"I have a particular reason to think that if we treat asylum seekers well, then they will give us more than they receive, like my great-great grandfather."

THE INTERVIEW

BY JOE BILL

Singer John's a real Diamond

Tribute act evolved 'due to audience demand'

AFTER 3,000 performances in the pubs, clubs and hotels of the Canary Islands, arguably the best Neil Diamond tribute act on the circuit is heading to Maidstone.

Following 10 years of hard work, John Hylton finally brings his perfected show, Real Diamond, to the Hazlitt Theatre.

He said: "As soon as you hit the theatre circuit in the UK you will establish some kind of reputation, be it good, bad or indifferent.

"I didn't want to expose what I was doing to the UK circuit until it was as good as I could make it."

The 56-year-old has the haircut and the clothes, but he does one more thing that many other tribute acts cannot do.

Hylton said: "It is a bit of smoke and mirrors. I have the haircut, the clothes, I don't have Neil Diamond's nose and frankly I don't want it, but what I bring to the stage, is that I think I am the only Neil Diamond tribute artist that can play a guitar."

"And most tribute acts are rather tacky; the whole industry has got a reputation of one step away from prostitution. There is a lot of rubbish out there.

"I spent a year and a half, studying for one hour a day, watching and practising Neil Diamond's performances. That is a lot of studying."

Although he offers the next best thing to seeing the star live, Hylton never set out to become a Neil Diamond tribute singer. In fact, he wasn't even that much of a fan.

He said: "I dabbled in playing live music with my guitar in little bands all through my teenage years, and when I left school everyone said 'you have to get a proper job.'

"So I did, but I thought it was horrible. Most of my working life I was in computers, but my heart was never really in it.

Redundant

"I was made redundant in my early 30s, by which time I had taken up playing in pubs and clubs to backing tracks and singing.

"I got quite a few shows and I ended up turning pro when the computer business fell on its knees in the 80s."

From there, Hylton and his family went out to live in Tenerife and he started playing the pubs and clubs.

But it was until there was overwhelming public demand to hear him play Neil Diamond that John thought of changing his act.

He said: "I found out it was physically difficult for me to sing high notes with the baritone voice I have.

"I started putting Diamond songs and Chris Rea songs into my spot simply to save me from tearing my throat out.

"I was interested in Neil Diamond to some extent from my late teens and it was interesting to see that ladies liked his voice and I was hoping a little bit of that would rub off on me.

"So I started putting his songs in because I felt I could actually sing them quite well.

"People began to tell me they liked the stuff I was doing, but wanted me to sing more Neil Diamond stuff."

Although hailing from The Wirral, Hylton spent a period of his childhood in Canada where he picked up a mid-Atlantic accent.

He said: "It evolved from there and I thought, why argue with what the audiences are asking me to do?

"Part of it was that having spent time in Canada I found the accent and the way Neil pronounces things not that difficult to emulate, so I turned the show. I looked at the market place and tribute acts very much have got a reputation of 'God, not another tribute show, there are millions of them'.

"I wish I had a pound for every time a person has come up to me and said 'if you close your eyes, you really sound exactly like Neil Diamond live."

The Real Diamond tour will focus on Neil's 1980 album, The Jazz Singer. Many of the songs from that particular album are rarely featured in the Neil Diamond live set, so Real Diamond has something different to offer the fans.

Having previously played to 25,000 and 27,000 people at the Hull and Ipswich football grounds, John Hylton is confident he can entertain any Kentish Diamond diehards with his show.

• Real Diamond – The Jazz Singer Tour will be appearing at The Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone on Friday, May 27.

Tickets cost £15 and are available by phone on 01622 758611 or online at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

BEAUTIFUL NOISE: John Hylton shines as Neil Diamond

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Print business a front for huge forgery scam

By **JAMES BENJAMIN**

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FOUR Kent men who produced fake banknotes worth millions of pounds have been jailed for a total of 24 years.

The trio concealed their counterfeiting business behind an apparently legitimate print business, but they were brought to justice after surveillance from the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).

Phillip Brown, 44, from East Farleigh near Maidstone, and his brother Christian Brown, 33, from Locksbottom, near Farnborough ran the commercial printing firm.

Together with Mehmet Altinfincan, 27, from Bromley, the trio were part of an operation to print and distribute fake £20 notes. To date, notes with a face value of over £17.5m have been removed from circulation.

Surveillance of the Browns' business on Portland Road, South Norwood, London, established that it was a front for buying materials to produce counterfeit currency.

A computer containing images of scanned notes was seized from Altinfincan's home after the three were arrested by City of London Police officers in June 2010.

The contents of a shredder were retrieved from Phillip Brown's home, and analysis of the shredded material revealed counterfeit notes printed on the back of a poster.

CASH CON: Fake £20 notes were produced at the printing business

SOCA's Trevor Symes said: "These criminals were attempting to rip off the UK public and legitimate business on a massive scale."

SOCA's investigation identified that the men were part of a crime gang involved in a range of activities. Officers found a full cannabis production facility in Phillip Brown's home, including 81 plants.

Daniel Brown, a cousin of Christian and Phillip, was responsible for distributing fake 50 Euro notes. However, it is not known if the Browns were responsible for producing these notes.

A quantity of 50 Euro notes, with a face value in the region of 350,000 Euro, was recovered from Phillip Brown's house, and more than 9.3 million Euro of the same series has been withdrawn from circulation across the EU.

Another gang member, Bekir Arif, who had been released from prison on licence following a previous conviction for supplying heroin, was involved in making and distributing counterfeit one and two pound coins.

They were sentenced at Kingston Crown Court on Wednesday.

Phillip Brown pleaded guilty to cultivation of cannabis and abstraction of electricity. He was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit (£20) banknotes and conspiracy to deliver counterfeit (50 Euro) notes. He was sentenced to nine and a half years.

Christian Brown pleaded guilty to conspiracy to make counterfeit (£20) notes, conspiracy to make counterfeit coins, conspiracy to deliver counterfeit coins, conspiracy to deliver counterfeit (50 Euro) notes, cultivation of cannabis and abstraction of electricity. He was also sentenced to nine and a half years.

Mehmet Altinfincan admitted conspiracy to make counterfeit (£20) notes, conspiracy to make counterfeit coins, conspiracy to deliver counterfeit coins, and supply of cannabis and received five and a half years.

Bekir Arif, 57, of Perry St Gardens, Chislehurst, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit coins and to deliver counterfeit coins. He was sentenced to eight years. Arif had been released from prison on licence.

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Celebrity line-up for

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO of the county's top stars from the world of art and music are to open the £17 million Turner Contemporary gallery.

The Margate gallery, which at one time was to be built at sea, has been dubbed one of the largest and most important spaces for art outside London.

Tracey Emin, who was born in the town, and Jools Holland, who lives in Cooling, near Strood, will open the gallery, with children from two Margate schools, Holy Trinity and St John's.

JMW Turner went to school in Margate and was already a prolific artist, with many of his works hanging in his father William's shop.

The new gallery opens on Saturday, April 16, with the public allowed in from 10am.

Among the sights and sounds for visitors to experience is Graham Gussin's Illumination Rig 2011, which will be switched on at 10am, at the same time as the Cultural Baton caravan opens its doors to hear visitors' stories.

Willi Dorner's Bodies in Urban Spaces performance begins at 11am, followed later in the day at 8pm, by local band Cocos Lovers.

Expecting crowds of about 5,000, the gallery will stay open until midnight on the opening day and will then be open until 7pm from Saturdays to Thursdays and until 10pm on Fridays.

Gallery director Victoria Pomery said: "It will be a momentous day for Turner Contemporary and for Margate. The moment we open the doors and see visitors entering this fantastic new building will be very special."

Discovery

The opening exhibition explores the themes of imagination, discovery, wonder and the creative spirit.

A little-known work by JMW Turner, The Eruption of the Souffrier Mountains in the Island of St Vincent at Midnight, will be a centrepiece. It will be in Kent on loan from the Victoria Gallery and Museum at the University of Liverpool.

The opening will also feature the work of six international artists; Daniel Buren, Russell Crotty, Teresita Fernandez, Douglas Gordon, Ellen Harvey and Conrad Shawcross, including four new commissions.

Picture: © THE VICTORIA GALLERY & MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Turner Contemporary chairman, John Kampfner, said: "The opening of Turner Contemporary marks the start of an extraordinary opportunity for Margate and Thanet to become one of the UK's most compelling culture and tourism destinations.

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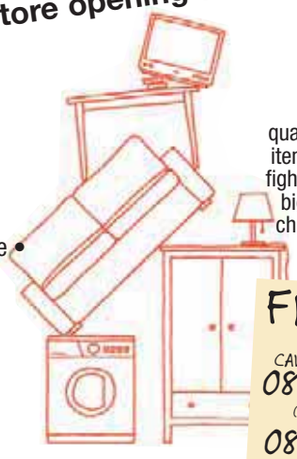

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opening of gallery

ART: Centre, JMW Turner's The Eruption of the Souffrier Mountains in the Island of St Vincent at Midnight on April 30 1812, from a sketch taken at the time by Hugh P. Keane, Esq 1815. Right is an artist's impression of the new Turner Contemporary Gallery. Left and right are Jools Holland and Tracey Emin, who will officially open the gallery next Saturday

"I would like to pay tribute to Kent County Council and our other partners for delivering this outstanding building on time and on budget."

There will be other art attractions in the town to celebrate the opening. Margate Museum will be open, along with the town's galleries, studios, and shops, plus there is a bazaar, Artists Alley, in Market Square and art and craft stalls.

The money to build the David Chipperfield-designed gallery came from the South East England Development Agency, Arts Council England and Kent County Council.

• ***See www.turnercontemporary.org for more details.***

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First choice for

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE vast majority of children in the Kent County Council area got their first choice primary school this year according to new figures, despite the number of applications rising for the second year.

The figures were equally impressive in Medway, which runs its own schools independently of the county council.

KCC said by the January closing date, some 16,249 applications were received for primary school places, up 1,329 on the previous year. In spite of this the authority said it was delighted with the response of its schools, confirming just under 85 per cent of new pupils got their first choice and 94 per cent got one of their choices.

Those who didn't get the school they wanted may be able to take up one of the more than 1,200 vacant classroom seats.

KCC cabinet member for education, learning and skills Cllr Sarah Hohler said: "The number of primary school applications has risen for the second year. Although we anticipated this and have been making plans, it is not until all the applications come in that we know the full picture and where the most popular schools are.

"We have done a lot of work over the last few weeks to make sure every child was offered a place, and it is pleasing the majority were given a school that they chose. This has been achieved by working with schools across the county to increase numbers to provide 345 additional places.

KENT County Council figures show a pleasing increase in the number of children being offered their first choice secondary school on March 1, up from 80 per cent in 2010 to 83 per cent in 2011.

Just 413 pupils got none of their choices.

With nearly 500 fewer Kent children in the system, waiting lists for popular schools are generally much lower this year.

There is a similar picture in Medway, with 87 per cent of children being allocated their first choice school, although this is helped by a fall in the age group of nearly 10 per cent.

Last year, the 18 most popular schools each turned away more than 50 children who put them in first place, but this year the same number of schools sees the bar drop to 40 places oversubscribed.

Leigh Technology Academy (Dartford) remains Kent's most popular school for the fourth year running, with 199 disappointed first choice applicants.

Second comes Tonbridge Grammar, with 104 girls who had passed the 11-plus turned away. After Westlands (Sittingbourne) on 94, comes Dartford Grammar School with 88, entering the lists for the first time as applicants from the London boroughs realised the school was accessible. A third of the places were allocated to high-scoring out-of-county applicants.

Next in line was Judd School (grammar, Tonbridge), followed by: Valley Park School

"For parents who have not been offered a school they had hoped for, we have included additional information on what to do next.

"Firstly, we are suggesting they visit the school they have been offered to speak to the teachers and get a feel for the school. They

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Accommodation

The boarding school is new and purpose built, it offers facilities to accommodate 40 children in the International Section. The building comprises bedrooms with on suite bathrooms... Three children share a room and dispose of a single bed with desk and chair. There are facilities for special needs, particularly for those physically challenged. The small number of pupils means that we can give them the individual attention they will need, particularly in the first weeks away from home. Two teacher assistants, one male and one female, are on hand day and night in the boarding school to help with homework and offer moral assistance and help to ensure their well-being.

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Generally a bilingual education in France is only available in private schools but the proximity of Boulogne to England and our shared history have encouraged the County Council for the Pas-de-Calais to develop an international section at the centrally situated Collège Daunou. English speaking children can now learn to speak and write French alongside French children of their own age in a truly French environment.

Collège Daunou aims to follow the path of the much acclaimed French education system

France offers state-run and private schools at all levels and the educational standards are high. The rigorous curriculum is dictated by the Ministry of Education and is virtually the same across the country and in French overseas territories.
The French educational philosophy emphasizes : the authority of the Teacher; individual competition including an absolute grading system; stress is on analytical thought and students are frequently expected to learn by heart. Academic expectations are high. Sports are encouraged in and out of school, the variety of after school sports is particularly wide.

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most primary children

Winners and losers as numbers come in

THE WRITE STUFF: Most primary and secondary pupils will be pleased with their allocated school, say officials

(Maidstone); Fulston Manor School (Sittingbourne); Brockhill Park Performing Arts College (Hythe); Brompton Academy (Gillingham); King Ethelbert School (Margate – new entry); and The Thomas Aveling School (Rochester).

Then follows Skinner's School (grammar, Tunbridge Wells), slipping from its position as the most popular grammar school in 2010, and: Folkestone Academy; Dartford Grammar School for Girls; Canterbury High School; Hillview School for Girls (Tonbridge); Bennett Memorial Diocesan School (Tunbridge Wells); and Simon Langton Girls Grammar School (Canterbury – new entry).

At the other end of the scale, four Kent schools were more than half empty before KCC drafted in additional children who had been offered none of their choices: Skinner's Kent Academy; Angley School (Cranbrook); Walmer Science College; and New Line Learning Academy (Maidstone).

One wonders how some of these schools can continue to function, with finances depending on pupil numbers.

The school with the greatest increase in popularity was Dartford Grammar School (up 55 disappointed first choices). The biggest loser was surprisingly Homewood School, in Tenterden, down 100, but still oversubscribed.

The pressure of out-of-county children taking up places in Kent grammar schools is once again greatest in the North West of the county, with 189 children taking up places in four Dartford grammar schools (52 of these coming from as far away as Lewisham and Greenwich) as opposed to just 57 in the three West Kent super-selectives, both figures very similar to last year.

Many of these figures will have changed this week, as parents had to decide whether to accept places offered, and there will be happiness for some, offered places off the waiting lists.

As many as 700 further children may gain places through the appeal procedure, although this stressful process goes on until July for some.

You will find more details on my website at www.kentadvice.co.uk.

Peter Read, independent education advisor

also have the option to go on a waiting list for a preferred school and lodge an appeal."

In Medway, the council said almost 92 per cent of pupils received an offer of a place at their first preference school for Year R admissions, and 99.8 per cent for Year 3, which are junior school places.

The authority added that 97 per cent were offered a place at one of their named preferences and 100 per cent for junior admissions.

A spokesman said: "We received a total of 1,148 applications for junior school admissions and 3,054 applications for primary school Year R places."

A specialist KCC team is on hand at 01622 696565 to help with queries for their schools.

There is also a choice adviser on 01622 694073 or 01622 694065.

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A Shooting Star of the art world

VIC REEVES: Exhibiting paintings in Kent

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

COMEDIAN Vic Reeves is to unveil a surreal art collection of his playfully deranged paintings.

A collection of more than 200 pieces of art will be revealed by the Shooting Stars comic, real name Jim Moir, and Michael Hogben, art agent and star of TV show Antiques Man, at The Grand on the Leas in Folkestone.

An auction will be held on the last day of the exhibition, when the art pieces will be sold from £50 up into the thousands.

Mr Reeves, who studied art at Sir John Cass College in Whitechapel, is better known for being half of the comedy duo Reeves and Mortimer, alongside Bob Mortimer.

The popular pair met while Mr Reeves was setting up a performance art piece in a local pub.

His work includes unusual self-portraits, quirky celebrity paintings and distorted animal pictures. The 52-year-old, who lives in Charing, near Ashford, with his family, admits that despite his successful comedy and TV career he has always considered himself an artist before anything else.

"I don't like to not be busy. People in TV and filming aren't really that busy. I write for maybe four hours a day and that allows me to spend plenty of time painting," he said.

"It's always terrible to let go of them, but that's the nature of it. I've started doing more landscapes recently.

Sinister

"I'm still learning all the time, but I thought people would probably rather have landscapes on the wall than some of the huge portraits I had been doing that some people found rather sinister."

His art agent Mr Hogben, from Folkestone, said Mr Reeves had exhibited in many world-famous galleries such as the Saatchi Gallery and Royal Academy, but this was the first Kent display and auction devoted to his work.

"What we're trying to do is establish a Kent connection – it's a nice way of putting Kent on the map," he said.

"The art lets you enter a world of wackiness. There are so many different things to see and take away from it.

"Vic is respected in the art world. He has always considered himself an artist.

"His work has always been well received, from the moment he started exhibiting and selling it.

"This exhibition will be dynamic. We're expecting a big crowd and with high-speed trains we're expecting people to come from London to see it."

Open viewings of the exhibition are being held on Thursday, April 13, from 11am-7.30pm; Friday, April 15, from 11am-9pm; and Saturday, April 16, from 10am-2pm.

The auction starts at 2pm on Saturday.

The exhibition is being held in the art deco suite at The Grand.

For more information or for a catalogue of works, email thehogbens@googlemail.com.

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Partnerships are key to public safety

THE county council, police force and fire brigade say it is now vital to share resources in the public sector to ensure the safety of people living in Kent.

Speakers at a conference included Malcolm Dodds from the Court Service, Ann Barnes from Kent Police Authority, Ann Millington from Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Brian Pollett from Kent Prisons, and Sarah Billiald from Kent Probation.

Representatives from these organisations, health and from within the criminal justice system came together to discuss how they will protect residents and keep cutting crime in the future.

They all agreed that building on the existing partnerships between them must be the way forward.

Disadvantage

After the event a KCC spokesman said: "There is now even greater emphasis on sharing public sector resources in order to keep communities safe. This was the key message from the Kent Community Safety Conference in the face of reductions in funding to public sector organisations."

Katherine Kerswell, group managing director for KCC, said that with major reforms taking place in all the public sector agencies, the council's priorities on tackling disadvantage, putting people in control and growing the economy, would rely on building partnerships between those organisations who can help make them happen.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth talked about the role of neighbourhood policing.

He said: "The new Kent Policing Model has been built with neighbourhood policing at its heart. This means members of the public will continue to receive the high quality service they deserve and that our commitment to working with partners is strengthened."

KCC cabinet member for customer and communities Cllr Mike Hill, who gave the welcome address, said: "We know we are facing tough times economically but despite changes in funding, we are still determined to strengthen services which keep people safe.

"Our partnerships are strong and these will play an even greater role in how we tackle anti-social behaviour and threats to communities."

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Seeking a home for nuclear sub

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DREAM: This Foxtrot B-39 desperately needs to find a safe haven for restoration work

Picture: SAM MURPHY

WANTED – a new home for a Cold War-era Soviet nuclear submarine. Must be safe from spies and vandals, or a long restoration project could go down the tubes.

John Sutton, from Sidcup, has one of the most bizarre big boys' toys ever. He snapped up the decommissioned sub from the Russians, with the intention of carrying out a major refurbishment, and launching it once more as a museum.

The 46-year-old maritime expert said he would encourage investors to step forward to help with the cash flow, but his most pressing concern is finding it a new home.

The menacing 92m beast from the Soviet war machine is currently in Strood – hardly a James Bond location, but it's safe for the time being, Mr Sutton told KoS.

In decades gone by, the vessel was capable of launching nuclear strikes against prime sea targets.

Had World War Three broken out, this hunter-killer Black Widow sub could have used its 22 torpedoes, including two with low yield nuclear warheads, against Allied vessels.

As a private investor, Mr Sutton snapped it up in 1994 and the battle to bring it back to life has raged ever since.

The Foxtrot B-39, tagged U-475, is now celebrating its 44th birthday, having been put to sea by the Soviets in April, 1967.

Mr Sutton said: "It would be nice if someone came along with a sponsorship offer, but we are not looking to sell it or go in to a partnership.

"We were approached a little while ago by Kalashnikov Vodka, which wanted to put its name on the side and aim the sub at London. There have been a few offers, and I am always willing to listen to would-be sponsors.

"But my main worry at the moment is finding a permanent home for her. In the past, this vessel was patrolling the Baltic, searching for enemies at sea and training seamen from Libya, Cuba and India."

Mr Sutton said the sub arrived in London from the naval base in Riga, Latvia, in July, 1994, under the command of its Captain Vitalij Burda, who bid official farewell to his second home of the last 23 years.

She was at Long's Wharf, Thames Barrier, until 1998 and then moved to Folkestone.

The sub had been home to 77 crew members, despite being just 7.5 metres wide. It could be at sea for 90 days at a time, reaching depths of 250 metres, and had a submerged cruising range of 400 miles.

Mr Sutton said: "Getting her under water again would be a dream, and something we are aiming for."

The readiness of this sub to kill is evident from the sailors' bunks next to the nuclear missile bays.

Red Star symbols from the Communist party are still scattered throughout the vessel, a bleak reminder of the Cold War.

"We have some hull work to do on her, but other than that, and some painting, the big work needed is to get her back under her own power," said Mr Sutton.

"We will be working towards that."

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KENT Trading Standards have warned of bogus census collectors trying to con householders.

Officials say an elderly resident was approached by someone claiming to be a retired doctor, asking for her census form.

A spokesman said: "We are urging people to be wary of disclosing any personal information.

"Return your census as directed on the paperwork and do not hand it over to anyone at the doorstep.

"If you are in any doubt contact the census helpline free on 0300 0201 101.

"Please also keep in mind that bogus callers will often use doorstep tactics to distract the homeowner while an accomplice gains access to the property via another route, this is known as distraction burglary."

Red-faced Labour forget to enter their candidate

A LABOUR Party plan to see Canterbury council Tory leader John Gilbey booted out of his ward at the upcoming local elections has collapsed, after blundering officials forgot to nominate their hotly-tipped candidate, ***writes Ian Read***.

Now red-faced Labour chiefs have been left with the humiliation of not contesting the ward at all on May 5.

The leader of the local Liberal Democrats described the farce as "an enormous cock-up".

Labour had made the battle for the Blean Forest ward its number one priority in the upcoming elections.

The plan was simple – field Liam Preston, a member of the National Union of Students' executive committee and chairman of the British Youth Council – and harness the student vote to sweep to a famous victory against the incumbent Tory leader.

But an administrative blunder meant Labour failed to register any candidates for the two-seat ward.

MAJORITY: Conservative John Gilbey

And it meant heartache for Mr Preston who admitted he was "absolutely devastated", having spent the week canvassing ahead of polling day.

Labour had even got the local Lib Dems to consider running a low-key campaign, to allow the Labour man a clear run.

Lib Dem leader Alex Perkins said: "Using a football term, Labour had an open goal in front of them. John Gilbey has got a majority of 299 and Liam could have won the seat harnessing the student vote.

"I'm 47 now and been involved in local politics since I was 23. But I have never known such an enormous cock-up."

Cllr Gilbey said: "I've always said, I don't mind a challenge. And it's a pity I will be unable to do it."

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Trust triumphs in bid to save historic homes

THE "greatest heritage save" in recent years has been pulled off at the 19th century Isle of Sheppey dockyard by a conservation trust, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Once heralded as the most advanced naval installation in the world, builders had wanted to raze the historically important buildings to the ground to build flats, but Swale Council members threw out the plans last year, saying they were not in keeping with the area.

They said the development would detract from the character and setting of the listed buildings and conservation area.

That left the door open for the City-based Spitalfields Historic Buildings Trust, which proceeded to raise £1.85 million with help from the Architectural Heritage Fund, to snap up the four-acre site in Sheerness.

On the land are 10 important listed buildings dating from the 1820s. The trust said it now intends to restore them as single homes.

These include Regency Terrace, a row of five elegant houses, and the magnificent Dockyard House, originally built for the chief superintendent of the yard. It was later converted to offices.

The three remaining properties will be held by the Trust, to be passed on to suitable purchasers.

RESCUED: These elegant buildings will be restored to their former glory

The Trust said it is to submit the necessary planning applications, and oversee the rehabilitation of the site, and carry out repair work around Regency Terrace.

The trust says this will protect one of the most important and endangered historic sites in the South East.

Spitalfields trustee William Palin lives in nearby Naval Terrace, and is also secretary of Save Britain's Heritage. He said: "This is one of the greatest heritage rescues of recent years, and proof that viable conservation solutions can be found for even the most difficult historic sites.

"Spitalfields Trust has managed to assemble a group of sympathetic and passionate investors who will return this magnificent site to its former glory."

Negotiations are continuing over the future of the church on the site, which could be turned in to 22 flats and five terraced houses. The Trust would rather this became a community building.

The dockyard has been on English Heritage's national 'at risk' register for almost 10 years, and two years ago made it on to the World Monuments Fund's international Watch List of endangered historic sites.

The dockyard was planned and engineered by John Rennie and constructed by surveyors Edward Holl and George Ledwell-Taylor.

The dockyard closed in 1960 and since then has operated as a commercial port.

Find more news and sport updated www.yourswale.co.uk

MEDWAY Council has received backing in the Commons for its decision to cut funding to trade unions.

Replying to a question from Chatham and Aylesford Tory MP Tracey Crouch, the Secretary of State for Communities Eric Pickles said other local authorities should follow Medway's lead after it reduced the trade unions' facilities grant by £46,000 and invest this, plus some additional funds which totalled £92,000, in new library books.

Mr Pickles asked Labour's Shadow Secretary of State Caroline Flint to "send out requests that Labour councils similarly look towards trade unions and reducing their costs".

Medway's deputy leader Cllr Alan Jarrett welcomed the endorsement from Mr Pickles.

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We need to build bridges says new church leader

CONCERN: The Right Rev James Langstaff

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE new Bishop of Rochester has defended controversial comments made by his predecessor that some communities have become "no-go areas" for non-Muslims.

According to the Right Reverend James Langstaff, the previous head of the diocese, Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, was justified in voicing his concerns about the impact of cultural segregation in the UK.

However, he stopped short of recycling the term 'no-go areas', and pointed out that ethnic minority groups may also feel excluded from towns and villages that are predominantly white.

The Rt Rev Langstaff said: "Dr Nazir-Ali has his own views and I'm sure he chose his words carefully, as clearly there are issues about the building of cohesive communities when areas become dominated by ethnic grouping.

"I wouldn't want to talk about no-go areas. but I do think we need to build neighbourliness and understanding between different sets of people.

"The same applies for areas dominated by white people, where others might find it difficult to live or work.

"But although I've yet to fully get to know this part of the world, my encounters with the Sikh community in Gravesend have been very warm and friendly, and there is a good level of integration in that town."

ETHNIC GROUPS: We need to build understanding, says the bishop

The Rt Rev Langstaff was unveiled as the 107th Bishop of Rochester last June, but has only officially been in the post for about three months, representing about 1.2 million people in Bexley, Bromley, Medway, Gravesham, Dartford and most of west Kent.

Energy

He spent the previous six years as Suffragen Bishop of Lynn, in Norwich, having already spent 18 years in the diocese of Birmingham.

The married father-of-two told KoS he had so far spent time with eight of the 17 deaneries in the Rochester diocese, and hoped to have visited them all by June.

He said: "Everyone has been very friendly and welcoming, and once I've met everyone face-to-face I aim to take a breath and reflect on what I've seen and heard.

"I'm fairly accessible and like to engage with people, and I've so far picked up a real desire and energy for the Church to be more heavily involved in the life of local communities.

"I think we can always do more, but what I've seen so far – such as providing mentors in schools, street pastors, and parent and toddler groups – has been pretty encouraging.

"A lot of churches are quite central to their areas, and that's something I'm keen to support."

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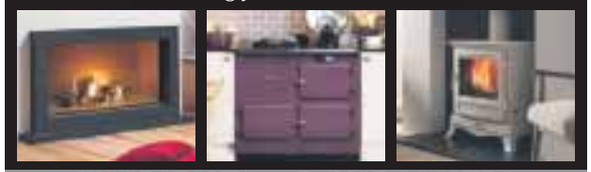

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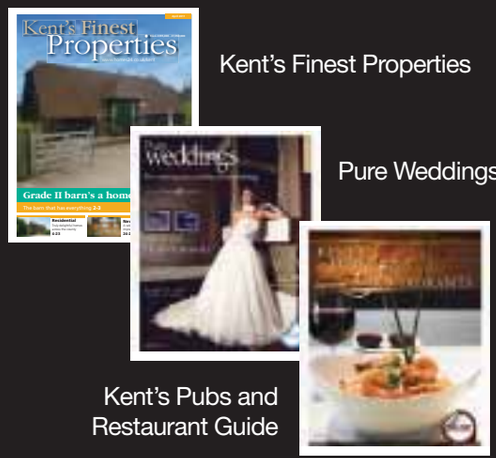

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Women 'have right to become bishops'

THE Bishop of Rochester says the General Synod was right to allow the ordination of female bishops.

While understanding the concerns raised by many traditional churchgoers, the Right Reverend James Langstaff says he believes the time has come to allow women to take control of certain dioceses.

The Synod is expected to debate the final approval stage in July, 2012, but last month a first wave of about 600 Anglicans – including more than 100 in Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks – officially left the Church of England and joined Roman Catholic churches in protest.

"I've always been in favour of ordination," said the Rt Rev Langstaff. "The question for me is what provisions we make for those people who are opposed to it.

Homosexuals

"I'm part of a generation who trained among women all the way through. I can think of one or two who I've known since I was 18, who have gone all the way through the same process and reached senior posts, but who can't become bishops like I have.

"Although I understand the arguments about why women shouldn't be able to take that step, I believe God equipped them in the same way as men. If he can call me to service then I don't see why he can't call them too."

Despite his support for the ordination of women, the Rt Rev Langstaff was less sure about the prospect of allowing homosexuals to become bishops.

While supporting the Archbishop of Canterbury's view that gay men should be allowed to become bishops as long as they remain celibate, he stopped short of endorsing such a motion for Anglican churches worldwide.

It was probably best, he added, to let individual provinces decide what is best for them.

The Rt Rev Langstaff said: "While some churches in Europe and America will welcome gay bishops, there are others in parts of Africa and Asia where homosexuality is illegal.

"It's not an easy question to answer."

SUPPORT: Women can be called to service like men, says the Rt Rev James Langstaff

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Police spring surprise as car crime blitz extended

KENT Police say they are determined to crack down on vehicle crime as part of a spring blitz on crooks, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Senior officers have instructed patrols to take extra steps over the next few weeks to tackle the scourge of thefts from and of vehicles.

The issue has been included in the force's Stay Safe This Spring campaign, which ended this week. But the force has confirmed the vehicle crime element of the campaign will be extended until late May.

Teams will continue to operate across the county to target known crooks as well as offer advice to drivers on how to prevent car crime happening in the first place.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge said: "As I speak, vehicle crime teams in your community are acting on intelligence, executing search warrants and dealing with offenders. Their aim is to recover as much stolen property as possible, and apprehend offenders so they can be dealt with through the courts.

"Our vehicle crime teams are employing a range of tactics to provide maximum opportunity to arrest those responsible for stealing vehicles and valuables."

The top 10 items stolen from vehicles include satellite navigation, parts, and exterior fittings, including number plates and door mirrors.

With cars using increasingly sophisticated security systems, thieves are finding their job is so much easier if they have the keys – and that means targeting homes to get them.

The police said offenders are known to break into homes in order to steal car keys, before taking the vehicle to sell on or use to commit other crimes.

Mr Beautridge added: "We are also asking for your help in reducing and detecting vehicle crime. When you leave your car, make sure it is locked and there are no items left on display, particularly valuables.

"Take a look at your car as you leave it and ask yourself: is there anything I can see which would make someone break in? We would also ask that if you know of any crime being committed, or you are approached with an offer for cheap goods, that you contact us.

Police say people must take more measures to prevent theft. These include using tamper-proof screws for number plates and not leaving keys, handbags or valuables visible.

EASY PICKINGS: Make it harder for the crooks by not leaving valuables on display

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LETTERS

Choose wisely at the polls

Your exposure of the exorbitant fees being paid to temporary staff at KCC highlights the farcical state of democracy in this country.

KCC officers run the county and only pay lip service to the Tory-run council chamber who are supposed to have our interests at heart.

Time and time again, poor decisions are made by county officers and it is accepted that residents will pick up the tab.

The only way this situation can be improved is if more independently-minded local people stand for election in May, not just people the main parties choose.

The sad situation is accepted by many that even if a monkey stood as a Tory candidate in the county elections, it would win.

Even at a borough level, a candidate would have to be exceptionally well-known before he/she would have a chance of winning as an independent candidate in an election against the big three.

I would urge people to vote in May for a candidate who is willing to stand up for the people he/she wishes to represent, and, if necessary, will be willing to challenge county officers' recommendations.

Malcolm Luxton, address supplied

OPINION: WORKING BACK TO REALITY

Tory employment minister **CHRIS GRAYLING** says people unable to work have nothing to fear and much to gain from Coalition changes to Incapacity Benefit

"I WISH I'd done this years ago," he said to me, "but I never believed I could do it." A man in his 50s on a back-to-work programme, after years on Incapacity Benefit suffering from depression. A man taking steps back to self-belief and the workplace.

The thing that strikes you when you meet people who have spent long periods on benefits is they have so much to offer, but all too often no longer know how to make use of those skills.

They convince themselves they have little to contribute and that there is no option but to be on benefits. For 13 years, as the economy grew and jobs were created around the country, most were filled by migrant workers, while at the highest point 2.6 million people sat at home on incapacity benefits.

Not all could have worked. Some were full-time carers. Others were bringing up very young children on their own. Still more suffered from long-term health problems that meant they could not work. But a substantial proportion of that huge total could and should have been helped back into work. It didn't happen.

We cannot afford to make the same mistake again. Of course many of those claimants are too sick or disabled to have any realistic chance of making a return to work. They will continue, through new support arrangements, to receive our unconditional support – and rightly so.

But every group I have ever met that works with disabled people tells us that far more of them want to be in mainstream employment. We share that goal and want to make that a reality.

Now we begin the process of trying to help those who can work to find the right opportunity for them. We will be re-examining the cases of about 1.6 million people across the country, including 37,740 on Incapacity Benefit in Kent.

Over the next three years we will ask each of those claimants to provide us with written information about their case, with any supporting material they want to provide from their own doctors, and we will also ask them to go through a reassessment exercise.

The Work Capability Assessment, as that exercise is known, has become controversial. It was set up by the last government for new claimants and was part of a process that had become too inhuman.

We have taken independent advice from Professor Malcolm Harrington on how to improve things. As a result, the assessment is no longer the only part of the decision-making process. We will now place much greater emphasis on other evidence that will shed a light on someone's condition. And the process will be more human. Previously the only contact a claimant had was through letters full of official jargon. Now they will get a sympathetic phone call explaining what is happening.

We won't ask those who will qualify for state retirement pension in the next three years to go through the process. Nor will we expect anyone who is too ill to attend a Work Capability Assessment to do so.

I cannot stress strongly enough that this is not about forcing people back to work if they are genuinely unable to do so. Nor are we tied into specific financial targets about the number of people we need to get back to work.

This is about finding out who we can help. Perhaps to do something different to what they did previously, but still to do something more with their lives.

The Work Programme, which was launched last Friday and begins in June, will give current Incapacity Benefit claimants access to specialist back-to-work support if they have the potential to return to work. That's vital. This cannot be simply about abandoning people to their own fate.

We are at the start of a revolution. Many claimants will be worried about what lies ahead. My message to them is simple.

We will provide unconditional support to those whose health means they cannot possibly work.

But we will put real effort into trying to help the others find a better role in life.

And we will continue to make determined efforts to ensure that we, and the system we have put in place, treats people fairly, properly and appropriately.

KOS media COMMENT

Development? Yes. Asset stripping? No

THE Government's decision that the South East England Development Agency's assets should not be passed into local authority ownership could strike a damaging blow to the Kent economy.

We all know the Treasury wants to raise as much as it can as quickly as possible, but ministers need to wake up to the reality of how important these sites are to our county.

The economy isn't recovering as quickly as expected, so it's a risky business indeed to start meddling with development projects that could create hundreds – if not thousands – of jobs.

With Seeda due to be disbanded in less than 12 months, it is crucial to ensure the money already spent across the whole of the South East does not go to waste.

Many projects are already at an advanced stage and cannot afford to be delayed while the Government decides who to sell the assets to.

County council leader Paul Carter has voiced concerns that some new owners may choose to break sites up, or treat them as 'land banks'. That would be totally unacceptable.

The 'd' in Seeda stands for development, so any assets the quango owns should be used for that purpose – and that purpose alone.

The value of the land itself should not even be an issue at this early stage.

Comic Vic swaps his pan for paints

WHEN he's on the set of Shooting Stars, Vic Reeves likes nothing more than hitting comedy partner Bob Mortimer over the head with a frying pan.

It may therefore come as a surprise to some that the Charing resident has a more delicate side, with a passion for painting.

Then again, when the paintings are often of evil-looking celebrities or distorted animals, it's possibly not that hard to believe after all.

No confidence in turn-around

Those of us who know something of the inside story of KCC's Children's Services are appalled that the Conservative administration maintains that safeguarding children and turning around the service are the council's top priorities.

When Labour county councillors asked for an urgent review of Children's Services back in 2008, the Conservatives agreed, but only if the former chief executive, and ultimately the head of the service, was allowed to chair the review.

The review was eventually completed and found that the main problem was the amount of paperwork that was required under the legislation.

An interesting conclusion, given that every serious case review from Victoria Climbie to Baby P had highlighted the lack of recorded information available to professionals as the key reason for failings.

It comes as no consolation to know that I and my colleagues were right in our view that there was something seriously amiss with Children's Services in Kent, but I am pleased that our intervention demonstrated to the NSPCC and to Ofsted that there was something wrong. And I am pleased that Ofsted carried out its duty.

What none of us anticipated was how serious the situation was, and that Kent was, and is, among the worst services in the country.

Meanwhile, many of the same Conservative councillors who denied there was a problem in the first place are the ones who are now so determined to turn the service around. They inspire no confidence.

Cllr Mike Eddy, Deal

Dates need clarification

I was interested to read the correspondence from Frederic Stansfield, concerning the siege of Canterbury and claiming to know the exact dates in the year 1011.

It would be interesting to know if the dates quoted were adjusted for the change from the Julian calendar, in use in 1011, to the Gregorian calendar which came into effect in September, 1752, under the British Calendar Act of 1751, which declared the day after Wednesday the 2nd to be Thursday the 14th. Just how exact is exact?

Peter Baker, Maidstone

Protest violence exaggerated

I was pleased to see that you covered the story about Kent people joining with the other 250,000 people in London on Saturday, March 26, protesting Government cuts.

The story seemed to go astray, however, in the fact that about half of it was given to concern for the violence in the West End. Kent MP Julian Brazier was reported as saying that he "rightly condemned the extreme behaviour of a few hundred people".

Many of the stories on the BBC and other media seemed to take just this view of the day, which I expect is where Mr Brazier got his information.

When you look at what actually occurred, this violence has clearly been exaggerated.

The police arrested 200 people and went on to charge 180 of them, but of these, 140 were charged with offences inside Fortnum and Mason. Just 40 or so, then, were charged with offences that may include violence on the streets.

Stories like this inevitably get exaggerated, but this has been a remarkable exaggeration and needs to be put right. I join MPs who condemn violence on the streets of London, but to base future policies on such a false account puts our freedoms more at risk from legislators than protestors.

Derek Munton, Labour candidate, Rochester West

Nuclear power not essential

Damian Collins MP is wrong about nuclear power (KoS, March 30).

First, there is no reason to build any more nuclear power stations. As the two Zero Carbon Britain reports have demonstrated, a combination of improving energy efficiency and deploying renewable energy technologies can meet our energy demands and create an energy surplus.

Renewables can also meet the fluctuating energy demands that we have throughout the year in Kent and Medway.

Specifically, renewables can meet both baseload and peak demand. Late in 2007, a German economics ministry experiment showed that distributed power can indeed produce a reliable baseload energy supply. Thirty-six decentralised renewable plants – a mix of biogas, wind, solar (photovoltaics, or PV) and hydropower – were linked by three companies and a university in a nationwide network controlled by a central computer.

This demonstrates that new coal or nuclear power stations can be avoided, if a strong commitment to implementing renewable energy and increasing energy efficiency is made. Since nuclear power creates 25 times more carbon emissions than wind energy, when you include reactor construction, uranium refining and associated transport, pursuing nuclear power development would be against the Coalition Government's own plans to cut carbon emissions.

Energy efficiency and putting solar technology on buildings can be pursued everywhere in Kent. Mr Collins should be supporting this, not nuclear, especially as the UK has dropped from third to 13th in the world for green investment. below China, Brazil and India.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party, Tonbridge

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

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For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ARNOLD
Luan and Jason would like to announce the safe arrival of Cody Padraig David Arnold on the 24th March 2011. A little brother for Emily Jane Waldron, arrived just in time for Nan's birthday.

CLAYTON
Mason Connah, born on 30th March 2011, weighing 7lb 14oz. Son to Lewis Clayton and Kelly Lowe in Folkestone.

GAJJAR-TAYLOR
Meera and Lee celebrate the birth of their son Akaash Lee Gajjar-Taylor on the 30th March 2011.

GRIFFIN
Sarah and Adrian Griffin of Hythe are delighted to announce the birth of Seren Ariane and Madoc James on 14th March 2011. A baby brother and sister for Bryony.

HILTON
Maicie born on 18th March 2011, at 11:19am, weighing 8lb 8oz. Daughter to Tony and Hayley in Margate. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

LUCAS
Joel and Victoria of Canterbury are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Isla Victoria, on 21st March 2011.

MILLER
Scott and Lesley Miller of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their adorable daughter, Grace Scarlett Miller, born 23rd March 2011.

O'NEILL
Little girls are so much fun we thought we'd have another one. Grace Peggy arrived on Monday, 7th March, 2011, at Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother Hospital, on 7th March 2011, 7lb 14oz, 53cm, proud parents Stephen and Jane, big sisters Alice and Olivia. She's beautiful.

DEATHS

AXFORD
Violet Hilda May Axford passed away peacefully on 26th March, 2011, aged 88. Much loved mother of Jane and Jill and grandma to Emma, Chris, Beth, Nicola, Kirsten, and Kevin. Reunited with her beloved husband, William. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium on Friday 15th April at 1:15pm

FARLEY
Michael Farley died peacefully on 25th March 2011. Any donations would be gratefully received by Maidstone Hospital (Whatman Ward) in his memory.

RATCLIFFE
Mona Zoe Ratcliffe passed away peacefully on 16th March 2011. A loving wife now together with her devoted husband Richard, who died ten days previously. They had 66 wonderfully exciting years of marriage together. A much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother who will be deeply missed.

VEITCH
Brian Veitch of Ramsgate passed away on 26th March, 2011. Enquiries to H R Palmer Ramsgate 01843 592720.

A Duff argument

Oh dear, I'm afraid Ray Duff has shot himself in the foot again (Letters, March 20). He sneers at the fact that the world once had a worldwide flood, thousands of years before he and his friends had invented 'man-made global warming'.

Geologists have already proved there was once a worldwide flood, whether Noah was involved or not. The remains of a craft the size of Noah's Ark has been located on a mountain range in eastern Turkey, (also mentioned in the Koran), which rather proves the Biblical account.

Further proof of a global flood are the woolly mammoths found frozen in the ice in Siberia. They were so rapidly frozen some still had grass in their mouths and scientists believe it is possible to capture cells and DNA to recreate them. They were drowned in the flood, then frozen as the Earth rapidly cooled.

All the evidence suggests there was once a mantle of water vapour around the Earth that acted exactly like a greenhouse, ensuring a warm climate all over the world. Sound rather familiar, Mr Duff? Maybe that accounts for the ancient Buache map showing Antartica as it would have looked, before it was covered in ice.

So much of what was written in the Bible has been proved to be true by scientists, geologists, biologists and various other experts in their fields. If only the same could be true of Ray Duff's man-made global warming.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Growing problem

To agree with Phil Granger twice in a month is surely going too far. Perhaps he's becoming as cynical – or realistic – as me.

The fact is, he's right. Although climate change occurs naturally, the human contribution of carbon emissions is a moot point, although not to be encouraged. The human depletion of natural resources – especially oil, gas and coal – will continue to increase if the population continues to rise. This is not a good thing. The concept of sustainability is ignored.

I despair when I hear that farmers in Britain are expected to increase food production by 50 per cent over the next few decades. Think of the implications of that when more and more land is turned over to building. Kent is a good example – the Garden of England is becoming the Patio of England.

Mr Granger mentions India and China. Both countries have realised the dangers of over-population but only China – hardly a democratic country – has the power to impose a 'one child per family' policy and compulsory abortions. Unacceptable to us, maybe, but they are addressing the problem, albeit in a draconian way.

There are plenty of reliable methods of birth control but no social or financial incentives. If the stabilisation, and gradual reduction, of the population is desirable, then it should be a national policy, regardless of political parties, environmental or religious groups. Over-population has become the elephant in the room. Unfortunately, the economy is now the global religion, and growth its principal mantra. A fools' paradise indeed.

Dave Stewart, Deal

They are so right

I find I am in agreement with both your correspondents Dave Stewart and Phil Granger. Unfortunately we have little available action to do much in either Dave or Phil's arguments.

I wholeheartedly agree with Phil on over-population. But how do we address this? No politician will address the issue of the continuing growth of our numbers. Charities continue to want to protect the lives of millions of children in Third World countries while our own population is growing due to those from Asian and former Eastern Bloc countries who, seemingly have no idea what birth control is. At the same time, British people seem to be shrinking in numbers. Our welfare state seems only to support people who burden the world with children. This is madness. The tax system should support no more than two children, beyond which you're on your own and you should be penalised for more. Don't forget fathers with multiple children from different partners.

Instant treatment at a vasectomy clinic should be mandatory – perhaps this is the answer across the world. It is, afterall, the men who are at fault here.

I agree with Dave that a tidal barrage across the Thames and Medway carrying a new river crossing while generating electricity would not only be a sensible installation it would also reduce the load on Dartford. It would provide local jobs in Grain, Sittingbourne, Medway, Southend and surrounding areas and protect London and much of the tidal reaches. Indeed power generation in this manner is proven and the technology in use in France. Most if not all rivers could and should generate electricity.

Given that oil and coal will disappear as a means of heating our homes, then the need for electricity will increase.

Both the above arguments have much to favour them. But the big issue is that both are just too hot for politicians to deal with. No politician would ever suggest removing mankind's right to breed and likewise no politician would ever suggest recycling is a waste of time when real investment is needed in proper renewable sources.

We, the population of the world have to make the right decisions ourselves and if in our own small way we can make a difference then so much the better. Otherwise all I can see is a ravaged, polluted planet, its natural resources stripped, overburdened by sick, undernourished people standing on each others heads in a desperate struggle to survive. Do we want this for our children?

Dave Tutt, Chatham

Detecting cancer

I would like to thank you for highlighting the tragic passing from cancer of Jordan Terry, from Erith. Our thoughts are with his family.

Sadly, we had a similar experience last year. My father died of bowel cancer in May. He fell ill in August, 2009, and was diagnosed with anaemia which continued for months.

He repeatedly visited his GP as his symptoms worsened towards the end of 2009. My father wasn't the type to complain of pain unnecessarily, having survived anthrax, heart attacks, and a heart bypass. He pushed for a hospital appointment, as he wanted to see a consultant. The original appointment was April, 2010, but he managed to bring it forward to March.

The surgeon took one look at my father and told him he was very ill and needed immediate surgery to remove a tumour. The surgeon gave up his day off on the Saturday to perform the surgery. My father survived the operation and seemed to make a slow recovery, but a few days after he returned home, he became seriously ill and had to return to hospital.

Before he was readmitted a specialist nurse visited him at home. My mum thought it was a routine visit to monitor his condition, but she told my father his illness was untreatable. Mum called me as she thought she had misunderstood, so I was told over the telephone that my father could not be treated. We were in total disbelief – the cancer had progressed so fast.

Within a matter of days after my father returned to hospital, we were told there was nothing they could do for him.

The registrar informed us the tumour was so large it had burst, so the cancer had travelled throughout my father's body.

This obviously had not happened overnight. The nurse said anaemia was often a sign of cancer and should have been investigated much sooner.

We have often felt that my father's cancer was not detected early enough and soon after he passed away considered taking action, but you try to be positive and deal with your grief as best you can. But nearly 10 months later, the niggling feelings we tried to push to the back of our minds are now occupying our thoughts once again.

Your article helped us find the mental strength to take action for the memory of my father, who was loved by everyone, and for all the other families that have been affected by similar tragedies.

The UK has the lowest detection rate for cancer in Europe, a shocking statistic. We would like to start a campaign to raise awareness and early detection of cancer, as it seems in some cases doctors are failing us.

I was treated successfully for melanoma, as I was aware of the symptoms and my GP treated the case as urgent. It really seems like a lottery when it comes to detecting cancer. The frustration, emotional devastation and grief is worse when you realise that your loved one died of a cancer that could have been successfully treated if it had been diagnosed earlier. There is no guarantee that everyone can be cured, but every patient who visits their GP with serious concerns about their health deserves to be given the best treatment and advice. We understand there are constraints on budgets, but it is obvious some GPs need more training in cancer detection. We put our trust in them and their expertise, but sadly it seems some of them do not have sufficient knowledge about the symptoms of various cancers.

Nobody is perfect, but if they are unsure, they should refer the patient to a consultant as a matter of urgency for an expert opinion. Let's hope that something positive can come from such tragedies.

Michele Weedon, Maidstone

Rooney's foul play

Wayne Rooney? It's an old but true saying 'You can't make a silk purse out of sow's ear', but in this case it's a bit of an insult to the sow's ear.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Feel the benefit

At a time of economic cuts and welfare reform, millions are facing considerable financial pressures.

With this in mind, it seems startling that two-thirds of those living on low incomes in the UK and who may be entitled to in-work benefits, are not claiming them, according to a Turn2us survey.

Many of those struggling to make ends meet could claim, but don't. Often they don't realise what they are entitled to. This is especially true of the older generation.

In fact, the Turn2us research shows that nearly nine in 10 of low earners are totally unaware of the existence of in-work benefits.

This despite the fact that two-thirds of those surveyed nationally recently experienced a fundamental change to their working conditions, be it a decrease in working hours, or a change in salary.

In these uncertain times, it's more important than ever to ensure everyone is aware of their potential entitlement to welfare benefits and tax credits. I urge individuals to access the benefits checker at www.turn2us.org.uk, and check what they might be entitled to, how much and where to claim.

Benefits Awareness Month is running throughout April. Spread the message and let's get individuals claiming what they may be entitled to.

Edwina Currie, Turn2us

A deadly gamble

News of horses dying on British racecourses rarely gets published, yet a new analysis by Animal Aid shows that at least 162 horses suffered this fate over the past 12 months.

Cheltenham is the most lethal course in the country, accounting for 13 of the total number of victims.

Aintree, home of the Grand National, also proved treacherous, with four horses dying on a single day at the 2010 three-day meeting. While these two courses proved especially lethal, no fewer than 48 of Britain's 60 racing venues saw at least one thoroughbred fatality, while nine of them witnessed two or more deaths in a single day. The majority died from broken necks, backs or legs; or from pelvic fractures, tendon injuries, haemorrhages, or heart attacks.

The figures come from Race Horse Deathwatch, an online database established by Animal Aid, because the racing industry refuses to publish meaningful information about racecourse fatalities. There can be only two explanations for the industry's silence.

Either it does not care about the horses it kills, or it is fearful of the truth getting out.

Visit www.horsedeathwatch.com or contact Animal Aid for a free information pack.

Dene Stansall, Animal Aid, Tonbridge

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2011 Campaign

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Outstanding in their research field

CLOSE-UP: Students at EMR during the Crop Science Investigation event

BUDDING young scientists were given a taste of laboratory life at East Malling Research.

The CSI: Crop Science Investigation event was part of the institute's commitment to National Science and Engineering Week, and was attended by youngsters from Invicta Grammar in Maidstone, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar in Faversham, and Tunbridge Wells Grammar for Boys.

The A-level students were shown how trees can be DNA fingerprinted, how water moves within plants, and how to detect the proteins scientists use to determine the movement of insects and develop crop protection systems.

Head of science Dr Chris Atkinson said: "It was great to welcome such enthusiastic students. With the issues of food production and adapting to climate change becoming increasingly important, the field of horticultural research which underpins how the world's population will ultimately feed itself will become an even more exciting career opportunity."

In an effort to demonstrate that not all science takes place in laboratories, the EMR team took the students out onto its 550-acre site near Maidstone, renowned for its advances in horticultural research.

The youngsters were given the chance to collect insects from trees to compare the varieties and numbers of bugs present in the different species of tree.

Dr Atkinson said: "The day gave the pupils a real hands-on experience, especially the time spent in the orchards, and I hope showed how we start to develop integrated pest control strategies from field research through into actual laboratory work."

EMR is a subsidiary of the East Malling Trust and an independent provider of research, development and consultancy serving the food chain and other sectors of the land-based industry. Customers include the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), commercial companies and the European Union.

Academy's lasting legacy

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION experts have praised the success of a two-year training programme that came to a close last month.

Kent's National Skills Academy for Construction was formed in 2009 as part of a Labour government initiative to drive up the standard of industry training.

It was launched by the Kent Local Education Partnership 1 – a collaboration between Kent County Council, Partnerships for Schools, the Kier Group, and Northgate Managed Services – to deliver new school facilities in Gravesham and Thanet.

Other contractors involved were Willmott Dixon, Canterbury-based Provian Construction, and Sittingbourne-based Denne Construction. In the past two years the programme secured 72 apprenticeships, found 25 young apprentice placements, recruited 26 day-release professionals, offered 102 work placements for local 14 to 19-year-olds, and provided 22 graduate summer work placements.

A skills co-ordinator joint-funded by KCC and CITB-Construction Skills was also employed to match school-leavers, the long-term unemployed and others with opportunities in the construction industry.

Gillian Cain, regional delivery manager for CITB, said: "In the two years since the skills academy has been running, it has made a noticeable difference to the local economy and significantly increased the employment opportunities of the local workforce.

"Kent's skills academy can really claim to have left a lasting legacy for the community in which it was based." One of the roles of the academy was to ensure the partnership's main contractors met commitments to provide apprenticeships and work-related training opportunities.

Across the two years it also hosted 26 curriculum support events and 60 school resource days.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "We set some very demanding targets to make sure the investment in new school facilities benefited both the schools and local communities.

"This shows how KCC and industry can work together to improve employment opportunities and support the construction sector.

"I have championed work-placed learning alongside more traditional subjects so young people are as prepared as they can be for employment, or be prepared as they need to be for further education or training."

Kier's Tony Franklin said: "A key objective of the partnership was to ensure the communities in which the schools were built benefited.We are proud of our achievements in delivering an extensive range of employment and training opportunities, as well as employing 70 per cent of the trade workforce locally."

Visit www.cskills.org for more information.

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SILVER SURFER: The adult learning sessions in Medway are aimed at the over-55s

Free internet training

WOULD-be silver surfers have been invited to enrol on a free training course delivered by Medway Adult and Community Learning Service.

Sessions will be held in May and June to help the over-55s who have never used a computer before. Run as part of the BBC First Click initiative, the course will teach participants how to navigate around a computer screen, search the internet and find out about online security.

"This is a great opportunity for anyone aged 55 or over to explore the world of information technology and discover that it's really easy to get started," said Carol Downey of the learning service.

"After people have tried the taster course we can then help them to develop the skills they've learned."

The first course will be at the service's Gillingham centre in Green Street, from 10am-3pm on Tuesday, May 17.

The second will be at the Rochester centre in Eastgate, on Thursday, June 16.

Spaces on the first sessions in January filled up quickly and proved popular among those who took part.

Patricia Chivers, from Luton, in Chatham, said: "I was a bit nervous at the beginning but everything was very easy to understand and it's opened up a new world for me. I have a friend in Canada and thanks to this course I can email her regularly rather than having to wait for letters to arrive."

Spaces on the May and June sessions will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. A £5 reservation fee is payable but this will be refunded on the day. Call 01634 338400 for more details.

Apprentice boosts team

KENT Adult Education has added to its team of apprentices to help other learners enhance their own career opportunities.

Erin Rockell-Bennett is taking her apprenticeship in business and administration, and is based with the Key Training Services team in Tunbridge Wells.

She has been tasked with enrolling students onto courses and helping them with their inquiries, as well as assisting tutors and programme staff with timetabling and other administrative duties.

Erin said: "I didn't realise how big an organisation Adult Education was. The number and variety of courses they offer is amazing.

"In future I am hoping that having completed this apprenticeship I will have gained enough experience in customer services that I will be able to find a permanent position using my new skills."

To find out more about how apprentices can help your business, call 0800 731 4297 or visit www.keytrainingservices.org.uk.

Taking her art to the Max

A ROCHESTER filmmaker picked up an award at last month's National Student Film Festival.

University for the Creative Arts student Max Kimber, who is in the final year of her fine art degree at UCA Canterbury, won in the Best Experimental Film category for Cusp.

The part-time learner has picked up several accolades for the film, which she says "examines the tenuous nature of life through a young fledgling".

She added: "It feels amazing to win another award. I am most certainly not taking them for granted.

"The success of my film hasn't made me want to move away from fine art. I view my filmmaking as an extension of my fine art practice rather than a destination, although I do have another film I want to make."

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For more information please phone 01304 372312 and speak to the Manager or Deputy Manager

SUNRAY

39 hours, 8 – 5.
Working within the Sunray sales team.
Provide customers with accurate quotations for Steel Doorsets and Steel Louvres.
Liaise with customers, architects and specifiers to clarify requirements. Chase and process orders through our MRP system.
ESSENTIAL Knowledge of AutoCad, the Construction industry and Building drawings. Good telephone manner and computer literacy is essential.
Email your CV to **sunraysales@sunraydoors.co.uk**
www.sunraydoors.co.uk

CPI Mackays, the UK's leading book producer has vacancies for the following positions to join our busy Manufacturing Team at Lordswood in Chatham.

Please apply only for the position or positions that are suitable.

An attractive package is available to excellent candidates with a proven ability to multi-task and meet deadlines in a fast paced modern Manufacturing environment.

Ancillary Machine Assistant
Perfect Binder Trimmer Operator
Perfect Binder Operator
Factory Porter
Pressroom Operator / Overseer Night Shift
Forktruck Driver/Paper Storeman

Send CV's and information on current remuneration to Paul Steed Factory Manager, CPI Mackays, Badger Road, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent ME5 8TD
by the 15th April 2011.

The future of local media

Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

Telephone Sales Executive
Maternity Cover fixed term

If you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Media experience is not essential as full training will be given. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd
Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS
Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

Media Sales Executives - Field Based x 2
Full Time permanent - Tunbridge Wells & West Kent
Full Time permanent - East & South Kent

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd
Smeeth, Ashford Kent TN25 6SS
Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

B2B Media Sales Executives - Field Based x 2
Full Time permanent - Tunbridge Wells
Full Time permanent - East Kent

We are looking for a highly motivated and experienced sales professional to drive new business and manage existing clients.

The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of client relationship management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, securing new revenue, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with excellent sales skills, a self starter; tenacious and will have excellent verbal and written communication ability. You will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within media (although this is not essential,) will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media. Knowledge of the Kent marketplace would be beneficial.

Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:
Christine Davidson, Commercial Director
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Advertising Sales person wanted for the Canterbury area

A strong proven background in local media sales required.

Good basic plus commission.

Please call in the first instance Stephen on 07967 329093

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QUANTITY SURVEYOR

All candidates must come from an Engineering/Construction background with a proven track record in Quantity Surveying. Applicants must be commercially aware in dealing with subcontract payments, interim monthly accounts, re-measurement, controlling multiple contracts to budgetary requirements and final accounting.

Please apply in writing to
Mr Nick Hamer, Piper Double Glazing Limited,
140 Newington Road, Ramsgate,
Kent CT12 6PP or e-mail
nick.hamer@piperwindows.co.uk.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer

PIPER
FITS FIRST TIME

CPI Mackays, the UK's leading book producer has vacancies for the following positions to join our busy Manufacturing Team at Lordswood in Chatham.

Please apply only for the position or positions that are suitable.

An attractive package is available to excellent candidates with a proven ability to multi-task and meet deadlines in a fast paced modern Manufacturing environment.

Paper/Purchasing Assistant – Part Time
Delivery Co-Ordinator
Electro Mechincal Engineer
Engineering Storeman
Warehouse Manager

Send CV's and information on current remuneration to Paul Steed Factory Manager, CPI Mackays, Badger Road, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent ME5 8TD **by the 15th April 2011.**

LEADING SOLAR INSTALLATION COMPANY

gml construction

Qualified Electricians
£24000 + bonus + benefits

One of the UK's leading solar installation companies is looking for Electricians to work as part of the Solar PV installation team.

Must have 17th edition with Part P plus 2391 inspection testing and certification. Roofing and carpentry experience would also be a distinct advantage.

Please forward a CV by **21st April** to
sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk

GML CONSTRUCTION
Orchard House, Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent, ME17 4DH
01622 742708

www.gmlconstruction.co.uk

GML Construction is an Equal Opportunities Employer

PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER

REQUIRED, 5 mornings per week

Must be conversant with Quickbooks and VAT returns. Must be a flexible worker, reliable and able to work on own initiative.

Please call Geoff on 01634 832895 or email geoff@airqualityassurance.co.uk

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Deputy Facilities Manager/ Receptionist

Marlowe Innovation Centre

12 Months contract to commence as soon as possible
7.5 hours per week initially, increasing to 23.5 hours per week 1st July 2011
Salary: £7.27 per hour

We are looking to appoint a Deputy Facilities Manager/Receptionist on a twelve month fixed term contract to commence as soon as possible.

Duties to include meeting and greeting visitors; handling incoming calls, conference servicing and general reception duties.

The successful applicant will be versatile, friendly, confident and able to handle telephone and ICT systems.

Hours initially to be one day a week until the end of June 2011 and increasing to four afternoons and all day Friday from 1st July 2011.

For further information and an application pack please contact Leza Riley on 01843 598600 or visit our website www.marloweinnovationcentre.co.uk

Closing date: Thursday 21st April 2011
Interviews to be held week commencing 25th April 2011

The Marlowe Innovation Centre is situated on The Marlowe Academy site and shares The Academy's commitment to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and therefore the successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

The Sittingbourne Community College

Daring to be different!
The specialist College for Arts, Sport and Engineering.
Sports School of the Year
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National Lead School for Gifted & Talented
Outstanding Facilities for Sport and The Arts - £4m recent investment
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REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2011
HEAD OF GIRLS' PE - who wants to develop Championship Squads and Individuals
Salary: Minimum £35k (negotiable)
Do you want to join a College which develops academic excellence and personal achievement through Sport and The Arts?
Sports and PE are central to the College's Development and Improvement Strategy.

Committed to Child Protection and Safety.
Post subject to Enhanced CRB Disclosure.
For further details please contact Mrs Debbie Myers, Personnel Officer, on 01795 472449 or email debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk
To apply, please send your letter of application and CV to Alan Barham, Headteacher, or email alan.barham@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk

CLOSING DATE: 6 May 2011
The Sittingbourne Community College
Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NL
Tel: 01795-472449 Fax: 01795-470332
Email: office@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk

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Required for September 2011

SPORTS COLLEGES

Head of Agricultural Studies

TLR2

This is an exciting new post and a great opportunity for promotion for someone who already has experience of teaching aspects of land-based and environmental sciences and has the background to run and develop our School Farm. You will need to send for the details to really understand this unusual post but, in brief:

- Teach a BTEC qualification in KS4 and Sixth Form
- Teach practical, land-based modules in KS3 science
- Manage the farm and the stock people
- Manage an extensive extra-curricular programme through the Young Farmers Club network
- Lead the development of our farm rebuild

Closing date for applications: 4pm 28th April 2011
Date of interviews: Week beginning 9th May 2011

Application forms and information from:
Susan Allison, Personnel Officer, Meopham School,
Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent. DA13 0AH
Telephone: 01474 814646 x234
Email: sal@meopham.kent.sch.uk
Visit: www.meopham.kent.sch.uk

All our posts are subject to stringent child protection checks

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

PROGRAMME LEADER - HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Salary scale: **£29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year**
Interview date: **Tuesday 26 April 2011**

PROGRAMME LEADER - HAIRDRESSING

Salary scale: **£29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year**
Interview date: **Monday 9 May 2011**

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About us' and then 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Closing date for both posts: **Wednesday 13 April 2011**

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Assistant Accountant
Mid Kent
Salary £20,000 plus bonus
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1731

Co-ordinator
Ramsgate
Salary £20,000 PA
To apply/more information:
Thanet Kidz Club
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administration, Secretarial, PA

PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
piper@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER
Aylesham
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER
Required 42.5 hours per week - 8:00am to 4:30pm Mon to Fri£8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
Previous experience working in a small business on a financial computer software package. You must have a full Driving Licence to drive company vehicle. Must have a good telephone manner and knowledge of computers to develop company website. Your duties will involve day to day operations of normal buying and selling procedures within a small business, accurate daily record keeping and filing of engineers site attendance into suspension And computer files, website development and other administration tasks as required. Rapid enhancement of pay structure for the right applicant. Written application with CV to Pauline Stirrups at Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk
To apply/more information:
A & C Pumps Ltd
Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Office & IT Manager
Ashford
Salary £23,000 - £25,000
To apply/more information:
Kent Community Foundation
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Co-ordinator
Ramsgate
Salary C £20,000 PA
To apply/more information:
Thanet Kidz Club
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Learning Resource Centre Manager
East Malling
Salary £16,793 to £18,471 pro rata
Learning Resource Centre ManagerKent Scheme 5, 37 hours per week, 40 weeks per year(term time plus one week) £16,793 to £18,471 pro rata. The Malling Holmesdale Federation is seeking anenthusiastic individual prepared to run a vibrant school library at the heart of The Malling School in East Malling. To start asap after Easter. Qualifications in English and mathematics to GCSE grade C essential. Must be IT literate. Please see our website www.mhfederation.co.uk forfull job description, person specification andapplication form. To discuss the role contact Sue Ricketts on 01732 840995 Closing date: 12.00 noon on Monday 4 April Interviews w/c 4 April MHF is committed to the safeguarding of all youngpeople and this post will be subject to an enhanced CRB and CV check.
To apply/more information:
Malling School (The)
elaine.greenwood@
mhfederation.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

Gardener
Tunbridge Wells
Salary £9.00 per hour. Gardener required in the Tunbridge Wells area to work between 7-21 hours per week. Must have good sound knowledge in planting, pruning, hedge and grass cutting. Must work well on own initiative - own vehicle required. Rate of pay will start at £9.00 per hour plus fuel costs. For more information, please call 0800 032 0755.
To apply/more information:
DMS
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
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Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker
Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984
To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
headteacher@
westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Handyman
Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Fairview Homes Ltd
tracy.newberry@fnhltd.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Art and Design

ART TEACHER
Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, flexible and innovative ART TEACHER Required from September 2011The successful candidate will: • excellent specialist subject knowledge and skills to teach effectively up to GCSE • develop an innovative and creative learning environment • have the ability work effectively within a team • teach across ability range in KS3 & KS4 • the commitment to pursue opportunities for CPDWe offer Teachers rate of pay and SEN allowance Contact Lynne McGrath for an application form and job description.Email: personnel@westheathschool.com Tel: 01732 460 553Closing date for applications 8 April 2011The successful applicants will be subject to a CRB check and Vetting & Barring. For further details about our school please visit our website www.westheathschool.comThe New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share thiscommitment.
To apply/more information:
New School at West Heath (The)
principal@westheathschool.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK
Looking for a talented chef to create interesting, innovative menus. Must have:passion for food with knowledge of Kentish produceunderstanding of budgets, stock management Award in Food Safety in Catering Level 2. If you have the skills, enthusiasm and passion required, please telephone 07973559729.
To apply/more information:
New Inn
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Head Chef & Assistant Chef
Whitstable
Salary Negotiable
The Plough Public House Require a Full Time Head Chef & Assistant Chef. For a busy Pub/Restaurant. Experience Necessary and Knowledge of GP would be ideal. Must be hardworking and cope under pressure. To apply please call Iltan on 01227 792428.
To apply/more information:
Plough (The)
theplough.swalecliffe@
:live.co.uk
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Salary Competitive Salary
EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT PUB MANAGER. The successful applicant will be part of the Management Team, responsible for the day-to-day running of the business. Experience of management, not necessarily inthe hospitality industry, is important for this position. In particular we are looking for someone who can lead and motivate staff to provide a consistently highstandard of customer service in a busy and varied environment. Benefits will include a competitive salary, 5day week, 5.6 weeks paid holiday per annum, participation in the company's Assistant Management Development Programme, and excellent prospects foran enthusiastic, career minded candidate. E-mail your CV and covering letter to ship&trades@ shepherd-neame.co.uk
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Shepherd Neame
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CHEF de PARTIE
Cranbrook
Salary Competitive Salary
To apply/more information:
Shepherd Neame
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Child Care

Co-ordinator
Ramsgate
Salary C £20,000 PA
To apply/more information:
Thanet Kidz Club
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Cavity Wall Insulation Technicians
Pembury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Skinner & Reeves
john@skinnerandreeves.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Loft Insulation Installers
Pembury
Salary Negotiable
Cavity Wall Insulation Technicians to operate in Kent & Sussex. Full C1 Driving Licence and ACOPs essential. Loft Insulation Installers also required. Permanent positions offered by construction company based inPembury established 50 years. Contact David on 01892 825564 or email david@skinnerandreeves.com.
To apply/more information:
Skinner & Reeves
john@skinnerandreeves.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Shop Fitter Joiner
Kent
Salary £11 Per Hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Traffic Mangament Ops
Kent
Salary £7 - £ 12 Per Hour
Traffic Mangament Opertives wanted for ASAP start. Day and night shifts available. Monday to Friday. MUST HOLD Lantra 12 A/B / 1 Day or 12D or NRSW tickets.Also looking for Lantra Supervisors. Role will include working with a crews on high speed roads in the south east. Duties will include lane and road closures, stop and go and light control. Also maintaining road sides and all types of different road maintenance roles. The work will be starting in the Dartford area and covering Area 3 and 4 on Kent and Sussex Motorways. Please call Carl Davis on 01622 664999 for more details.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
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SUB-CONTRACT ELECTRICIAN
Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
SUB-CONTRACT ELECTRICIAN Required for around three days per week.17th Edition preferred. Must have owntools and transport. Varied work.Rates by experience and negotiation. E.mail details to heronelectrical@hotmail.co.ukor phone Alan on 07926 068108
To apply/more information:
Alan Skues
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Plant Drivers
Kent
Salary £10 - £12 Per Hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
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Domestic

Care Domestic
Westgate
Salary Negotiable
PART TIME CARE DOMESTIC. Required In Westgate. Please call Debbie or Diane. Tel: 01843 831491.
To apply/more information:
Gordon Lodge
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Quoting Job Ref: kos

IRONING SUPERVISOR
Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
FULL TIME IRONING SUPERVISOR FULL AND PART TIME CLEANERS AND IRONERS REQUIRED Maidstone area. Driving Licence Essential. Please call Vicky 01732 780935 or e-mail vicky.irvine@ mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Molly Maid
vicky.irvine@
mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CLEANERS AND IRONERS
Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Molly Maid
vicky.irvine@
mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic Trades

Gardener
Tunbridge Wells
Salary £9.00 per hour
To apply/more information:
DMS
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker
Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984
To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Handyman
Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
We require a handyman to joinour team at The Bridge, TunbridgeWells, a new development of 2bedroom apartments.The successful candidate will be ableto work alone or as part of a team.Duties will include light/mediummaintenance, cleaning responsibilitiesand assisting the sales team withdaily tasks. Immediate start essential.Please telephone0800 883 8170for more information.
To apply/more information:
Fairview Homes Ltd
tracy.newberry@fnhltd.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

SUB-CONTRACT ELECTRICIAN
Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
SUB-CONTRACT ELECTRICIAN Required for around three days per week.17th Edition preferred. Must have owntools and transport. Varied work.Rates by experience and negotiation. E.mail details to heronelectrical@hotmail.co.ukor phone Alan on 07926 068108.
To apply/more information:
Alan Skues
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Education, Teacher, School

WELLNESS COACHES
Swale, Medway
Salary £500-£1000+ per month
To apply/more information:
Arriba
Quoting Job Ref: kos

ART TEACHER
Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
New School at West Heath (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker
Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984
To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos

ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST
Northfleet
Salary £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.
To apply/more information:
Northfleet School for Girls
info@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

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To apply/more information:
Northfleet School for Girls
info@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TEACHING ASSISTANT
Northfleet
Salary Dependant on **To apply/more information:**
Northfleet School for Girls
info@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

COVER SUPERVISOR
Rochester
Salary £15,039 - £19,126 pro rata
To apply/more information:
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
freej001@medway.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Learning Resource Centre Manager
East Malling
Salary £16,793 to £18,471 pro rata
To apply/more information:
Malling School (The)
elaine.greenwood@
mhfederation.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT
Ashford
Salary £8.50 - £9.50 per hour
To apply/more information:
Rimstyle Autodesign Ltd
sales@rimstyle.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Jig Borer/Jig Grinder
Gillingham
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Aerospace Tooling
g.jones@
aerospace-tooling.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Wire Eroder/Spark Eroder
Gillingham
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Aerospace Tooling
g.jones@
aerospace-tooling.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sheet Metal Worker / Welder
Sheerness
Salary £9.00 Per Hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Estate Agency, Property

Handyman
Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Fairview Homes Ltd
tracy.newberry@fnhltd.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Beauty

WELLNESS COACHES
Swale, Medway
Salary £500-£1000+ per month
To apply/more information:
Arriba
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
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SHAMPOOIST/ RECEPTIONIST
Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
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Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Safety, Security, Defence

PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
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Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

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Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
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Gillingham
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST
Northfleet
Salary £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.
To apply/more information:
Northfleet School for Girls
info@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Office & IT Manager
Ashford
Salary £23,000- £25,000
Office & IT Manager
We are seeking a highly-organised and self-motivated Office and IT Manager to run our busy grant-making office. Kent Community Foundation is an energetic and ambitious charity that supports hundreds of voluntary and community organisations across Kent and Medway. So if you want to make a difference to your local community, this could be the job for you. We are looking for someone with a logical and systematic approach as well as a passion for technology and new media who can lead on our IT strategy. You will have a positive, can-do approach working as part of a small hard-working and enthusiastic team, with excellent communication and customer service skills. To find out more about this role, please email admin@ kentcf.org.uk or phone 01303 814 500. Salary: £23,000-£25,000 Full-time. Permanent.
To apply/more information:
Kent Community Foundation
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

WELLNESS COACHES
Swale, Medway
Salary £500-£1000+ per month
To apply/more information:
Arriba
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
New Inn
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Head Chef & Assistant Chef
Whitstable
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Plough (The)
theplough.swalecliffe@
:live.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

ASSISTANT PUB MANAGER
Chatham
Salary Competitive
To apply/more information:
Shepherd Neame
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CHEF de PARTIE
Cranbrook
Salary Competitive Salary
Manager on 01580 713348.
To apply/more information:
Shepherd Neame
Quoting Job Ref: kos

SHAMPOOIST/ RECEPTIONIST
Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Hare and Now
tracy@thildrew.orangehome.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER
Aylesham
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
To apply/more information:
A & C Pumps Ltd
Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

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ASSISTANT PUB MANAGER

Chatham
Salary Competitive
To apply/more information:
Shepherd Neame
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Office & IT Manager

Ashford
Salary £23,000- £25,000
To apply/more information:
Kent Community Foundation
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Development and Marketing Officer

Ashford
Salary c. £21,000- £23,000
Development and Marketing Officer We are seeking a self-motivated Development and Marketing Officer to support the growth and expansion of Kent Community Foundation. We are an energetic and ambitious charity that supports hundreds of voluntary and community organisations across Kent and Medway. So if you want to make a difference to your local community, this could be the job for you. We are looking for someone with a successful track record in a business development role. Charity fundraising experience would be helpful but not essential. What is most important is excellent communication and relationship-building skills. You will have a positive, can-do approach working as part of a small hard-working and enthusiastic team, with excellent customer service skills. To find out more about this role, please email admin@kentcf.org.uk or phone 01303 814 500. Salary: c. £21,000- £23,000. Full-time. Permanent.
To apply/more information:
Kent Community Foundation
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Print, Packaging, Distribution

Estimator

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
Celebrating 130 years in the print industry, Headley Brothers Ltd is currently looking to recruit an Estimator. Working within the Commercial team and handling a range of print projects, as Estimator you would be responsible for: Producing accurate estimates, tenders and costings; obtaining pricing from internal sources and suppliers, and preparing price matrices. Liaising with staff, suppliers and customers, to ensure provision of the best possible production alternatives and solutions to client requests.Supporting the Commercial Manager in ensuring the commercial success of the company The ideal candidate will:Be self-motivated, highly-driven and dynamicHave excellent organisational skills Be a strong team player, with excellent interpersonal skills Have strong oral, numerical and written communication skillsEstimating experience and/or a knowledge of the print industry would be considered useful, but not essential. Headley Brothers Limited is an Investor in People and an equal opportunities employer. Please send your CV to Paul Palmer, Headley Brothers Ltd, The Invicta Press, Queens Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8HH, or by email to: paul.palmer@ headley.co.uk. All applications should include reference number: KOS01. Closing date: Friday 15th April 2011. Please note that responses will only be issued to applicants that are eligible for interview.
To apply/more information:
Headley Brothers Limited
andy.owden@headley.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos01

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

Kent
Salary TBC
Distributors Wanted Run your own business without the usual risks... and help people save money! choose your own hours full training and support up-front bonuses earn a second income on-going commission no stock to carry Find out more! Call: 0800 781 2433. www.minibills.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Utility Warehouse
johnandsheila@minibills.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Sales People

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Your Local Business Marketing
info@ yourlocalbusinessmarketing.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Car Sales Executive

Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Estimator

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Headley Brothers Limited
andy.owden@headley.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos01

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

LGV C+E (HGV1)

Drivers

Aylesford
Salary £9.25 - £14.00 per hour Class 1 Drivers required for Supermarket work.Various ongoing shifts available - weekdays, weekends, earlies and lates. You should have a good understanding of WTD and drivers hours, whilst also being presentable and customer focussed. A digital tacho card is essential. Due to insurance, applicants must be over 25, have 2 years Class 1 experience and no more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DR, DD, CD, LC or TT). Please contact Alex on 01622 664999 to arrange an interview. Alternatively, email CV to maidstone.admin@ thebestconenction.co.uk The Best Connection Employment GroupCornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, ME14 1NY.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@ thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: AH04

Class 1 Drivers

Across Kent
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

PREMISES LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Licensing Act 2003 Notice of Application for Grant of a Premises Licence Savers Health and Beauty Limited has given to Maidstone Borough Council an application for the grant of a Premises Licence for Savers, 76 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RJ. The licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on at the premises are the sale by retail of alcohol. The Licensing Register of Maidstone Borough Council is held at The Council Offices, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ and, where applicable, at www.maidstone.gov.uk. during normal office hours at the Council's above address and, where applicable, at any time on the above website. Representations which shall be made in writing may be made by an interested party or responsible authority to Maidstone Borough Council to be received at their above address by no later than Wednesday, 4 May 2011. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application; the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction being £5,000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **Thiyagarajah Arunthavachelvam of 153 Whitehill Road Gravesend Kent DA12 5LS** has applied to Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street Gravesend DA12 1AU for the VARIATION of a Premises Licence for an off licence Extension of Opening Hours are **Monday to Sunday 6am until 11pm** for the premises **Valley Drive Mini Market of 3 The Parade Valley Drive Gravesend DA12 5RT**

Any person wishing to submit representations to my application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 18 April 2011.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

Notice of an Application for the Grant of a Premises License (Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that Christine Cobourn has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the Grant of a Premises License for Sale of Alcohol from 08:00 until 20:00 Monday to Sunday for the premises The Barn Shop situated at Canterbury Road, Challock, TN25 4BJ.

A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by – 4th May 2011.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: The prevention of crime and disorder, Public Safety, the Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/10/2071/S - BLETCHENDEN MANOR FARM, BLETCHENDEN ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9JB - Application for listed building consent for conversion of redundant stable and cattle shed to 2no. separate dwellings. **Reason:** 3
MA/11/0310/S - 92, THE QUARRIES, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NJ - Erection of two storey rear extension. **Reason:** 1
MA/11/0406/S - BYDEWS BARN, FARLEIGH HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JB - An application for listed building consent for alterations to property including replacement windows, replacement of plain tile roof with breathable felt and new tiles and replacement of slate clips with new concealed clips and provision of tarmacadam drive. **Reason:** 3
MA/11/0409/S - BERESFORDS, BERESFORDS HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4LX - Amendment to **MA/09/0392** (construction of permissive footpath) to include erection of 1.6m high fencing. **Reason:** 1
MA/11/0411/N - THORNHAM MILL PLACE, OTHAM LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8SJ - Application to remove condition 1 of MK3/56/151A which states that the lean-to, which projects from the main wall towards the road, will at some future time be demolished for road improvements. **Reason:** 1
MA/11/0417/S - HILLSIDE, HAYLE PLACE, CRIPPLE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DW - Erection of detached garage with store and entrance gates and alterations to existing vehicular access. **Reason:** 1, 2
MA/11/0420/S - HAVEN FARM, NORTH STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3HS - Variation of condition 15 of planning permission MA/09/2349 (change of use of land from agricultural for the erection of 12no. dwellings with associated work) to go from requiring a minimum of Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes to a minimum of Level 3. **Reason:** 6
MA/11/0428/S - 7, MOAT ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NT - Erection of a two storey side extension, involving demolition of existing garage. Reason: 2
MA/11/0430/S - 7, MOAT ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NT - Conservation area consent for demolition of existing single storey garage. **Reason:** 4
MA/11/0441/N - POST OFFICE STORES, 16-20, THE STREET, DETLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3JT - Change of use and conversion of Detling Post Office Stores back into three cottages. **Reason:** 1, 2
MA/11/0458/N - 58, WARE STREET, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4PQ - Erection of a single storey side/rear extension. **Reason:** 1

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **24th April 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 10th April 2011.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/MA/0137/2011 - Proposed development at Leeds & Broomfield CEP School, Lower Street, Leeds, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1RL.

Leeds & Broomfield CEP School is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for the provision of new access to playground from classroom and the erection of a protective canopy over. The proposed development is within the Lower Street, Leeds Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance. The proposed development also may affect a Public Right of Way.

You may view this application at Maidstone Borough Council, The Gateway Reception, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ or at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours. Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 10 April 2011

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/00743/FUL Benenden Girls School Cranbrook Road, Benenden
- Proposed single storey extension to Guldeford House housemistress's apartment with first floor balcony (LB)

11/00857/LBC Pippins Gedges Hill, Brenchley
- Listed Building Consent: Replace three windows to front and two to rear of property. Install three secondary double glazing units inside (LB)

11/00900/LBC The Oasis Tearooms 17 High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building: Removal of internal wall (LB)

11/00896/LBC Barn & Outhouse 20M N Of Park Farmhouse, Horsmonden
- Listed building consent: To retain temporary cover to roof and walls of barn and outhouse, works already carried out (LB)

11/00883/HOUSE 32 Birling Drive Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Single storey rear extension to provide kitchen/breakfast room and replacement of utility room roof with single pitch roof, including extension to create porch area (CA)

11/00920/HOUSE Sponden Old Hall Sponden Lane, Sandhurst
- Replacement garage block (LB)

11/00822/HOUSE Broomlea Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Loft conversion with alteration to roof to include 2 cottage style dormers to rear (CA)

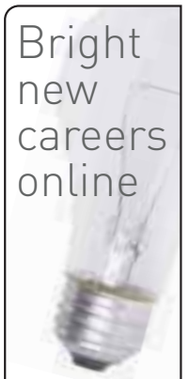
(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 09 April 2011

Bright new careers online



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Property Address: **153 Livingstone Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 2EL**

Notice of Offer

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £79,000.
Any interested party must submit any higher offer in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Agent Contact Details:
Mann Countrywide, 88 High Street, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1AX

Tel.No: 01634 851008

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044

PUBLIC NOTICES

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD) (20 MPH SPEED LIMIT ZONE) ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2011 (PROHIBITION OF LEFT HAND TURNS) ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE NEW ROADS AND STREET WORKS ACT 1991 AND THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004

NOTICE is hereby given that The Kent County Council has made Orders under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by Schedule 8 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, the effect of which has introduced a Restricted Parking and 20mph speed limit zone on a small section of Victoria Road from a point 30.0 metres north west of the mid point of the shared cycle / pedestrian footpath known as "Learning Link", south eastwards to a point 10.0 metres south east of the mid point of its junction with Victoria Crescent.

The School – Keep Clear Marking in Victoria Road outside of the school entrance will be remarked and be enforced to prevent vehicles causing obstruction to traffic flows. The remaining lengths of Victoria Road, Leacon Road and Gasworks Lane are subject to "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions; along with a small section of Bowens Field where parked vehicles have caused limited access to the existing footbridge.

It is also proposed under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, that turning left from Victoria Crescent into Victoria Road, Ashford has been prohibited. This is a safety measure preventing larger vehicles that often visit the industrial area in Victoria Crescent, from exiting onto the opposing carriageway of Victoria Road.

A copy of the Orders which shall come into operation on Monday 11th April 2011, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Ashford Borough Council Offices, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

WATER LANE, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT ducting works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Water Lane, Sturry, on or after 16 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A28 Mill Road and Fordwich Road.

It is planned that the works will be carried out on Saturday 16 April and Sunday 17 April, with a further closure on Monday 18 April after 2.00 pm to reinstate the road surface.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD) (PROVISION OF WAITING) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO. 8) ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE NEW ROADS AND STREET WORKS ACT 1991 AND THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by Schedule 8 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, has made an Order the effect of which has extended the existing "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions on A226 London Road, Stone in Dartford.

The Kent County Council has secured funding for a safety improvement scheme to the existing crossroads junction at A226 London Road, B2174 Hedge Place Road and Stone Place Road, Stone, Dartford.

This scheme involved the removal of the existing Zebra crossing and the introduction of signal control on all four arms of the junction. As the proposed pedestrian crossings are to be controlled within the traffic signal scheme the standard zig - zag road markings have not be installed.

A copy of the Order which shall come into force on Monday 11th April 2011, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the waiting restrictions may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR and Stone Parish Council Offices, Recreation Ground, London Road, Stone, DA9 9DQ.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

FULBERT ROAD & ROKESLEY ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fulbert Road & Rokesley Road, Dover, on or after 13 April 2011 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The entire lengths of each road will be closed in rolling sections, as advised and signed on site.

Access will be maintained from either Fulbert Road or Rokesley Road as signed locally, with other access maintained whenever it is safe to do so.

MARINE PARADE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marine Parade, Dover, on or after 14 April 2011 for up to 6 weekdays or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Townwall Street and Waterloo Crescent.

The alternative route is via A20 Townwall Street, Snargate Street, Prince of Wales Roundabout to Union Street, Esplanade and Waterloo Crescent.

THE STREET, SHOLDEN, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works to clear a blockage in a duct in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Sholden, Deal, on or after 26 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between numbers 30 and 61.

The alternative route is via The Street, A258 London Road and Sholden New Road.

WILLOW ROAD, GREAT MONGEHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to construct a kerb build-out, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Willow Road, Great Mongeham, on or after 11 April 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Deal Road and Northbourne Road.

The alternative route is via Deal Road, The Street and Northbourne Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DEAL, DISTRICT OF DOVER) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 4) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1, 2 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of this Order will be to introduce no loading or unloading on Monday to Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm on the following lengths.

HIGH STREET	On the eastern side from the junction with Market Street to the junction with King Street.
	On the western side from the junction with Stanhope Road for a distance of 40 metres in a southerly direction.
KING STREET	On both sides from the junction with High Street for a distance of 20 metres in an easterly direction.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm and at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal open hours from 11 April 2011.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Highway Services, Transport and Development, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 2 May 2011

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A2260 SPRINGHEAD ROAD, NORTHFLEET) WEIGHT LIMIT RESTRICTION, 2011)

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under 1, 2(4) and part IV of Schedule 9 section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order prohibits any person to cause any vehicle capable of exceeding 7.5 tonnes gross weight from using the A2260 Springhead Road, from the junction with A2260 Hall Road to a point 25 metres south east of the junction with Haldane Gardens subject to exemptions for loading and unloading, emergency service vehicles and public service vehicles:-

The Order was sealed on 4 April 2011 and will come into force 11 April 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Gravesham and at Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times from 11 April 2011.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (DUNN STREET ROAD, BREDHURST) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Dunn Street Road from Forge Lane to Lidsing Road on or after Sunday 1st May 2011 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Forge Lane, Lidsing Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused, which is necessary for highway improvement works. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Darren Hickman on 08458 247 800.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HIGH STREET, YALDING (SPECIAL EVENT) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994

Notice is hereby given that whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on the High Street, Yalding.

The Order will be effective between 1400hrs to 2000hrs on the 29th April 2011 or until the event finishes. The road will remain closed when appropriate signage is displayed on site.

The alternative routes for traffic during the event will be signposted. For light vehicles via Vicarage Road, Mill Lane and for large goods vehicles via the B2010/A229 to Maidstone, the A26 Tonbridge Road and A228/ B2015/ B2162 or vice versa.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the Royal Wedding street party to take place.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, TOVIL AND EAST FARLEIGH) (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2010

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to impose a 40 miles per hour speed limit on the lengths of roads described in the Schedule hereto.

A copy of the Order, an explanatory statement and maps showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent Highway Services, Network Management, Invicta House, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XX and at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ

The Order was sealed on 8 April 2011 and will come into force 11 April 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone Kent and at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ during normal opening times from 11 April 2011.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

Schedule
40mph Speed Limit

In the Parish of East Farleigh

B2010 Lower Road, East Farleigh
From the Parish boundary of Tovil south-westwards to a point 11 metres north-east of the centre line of the access to "Little Court Lodge Farm"

In the Parish of Tovil

B2010 Dean Street, Tovil
From a point in line with the common boundary of house number 143/145 Dean Street south-westwards to the Parish boundary of East Farleigh

C65 Dean Street, Tovil
From its junction with B2010 Dean Street southwards to a point 66 metres north of the centre line of the access road to "Valley Farm"

ROAD FARM LANE, OTTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Road Farm Lane, Otterden, on or after 26 April 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Slade Road for a distance of approximately 100 metres northwards.

The alternative route is via Seed Road, Frith Road, Foxen Road, Wyebanks Road and Road Farm Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

STATION ROAD & BROCA ROAD, HEVER - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Road & Brocas Road, Hever between Brocas Farm and road leading to Hever Station.

The Order will become effective on 11th April 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 12th April 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Hartfield Road, Lydens Lane, New House Farm Road and Hever Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS/DARTFORD/ GRAVESHAM/TONBRIDGE & MALLING/ TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND MAIDSTONE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are being carried out on or near the road Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on the routes described in schedule 1 and schedule 2 below.

The Order will become effective on 18th April 2011 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The dates shown in the schedules are anticipated dates however actual work dates will be displayed by signage on site 7 days in advance. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

The alternative routes for the restrictions are also stated in the attached schedules.

The roads in schedule 1 will need to be re-closed approximately 7 days after original closure to carry out road sweeping and replacement of lines.

Schedule 1

Sevenoaks

Road Name: Spring Hill, Penshurst
Extent: Between The Lane and Sandfield Road
Date: 27th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: B2188 Fordcombe Road, A264 Ashurst Road, Stonecross, A264 Langton Road, Langton Green, A264 Bishops Down, A264 Mount Ephraim, A26 St Johns Road, A26 London Road, Southborough, B2176 Bidborough Ridge, Bidborough, B2176 Penshurst Road, B2176 Rouges Hill, Penshurst, B2188 Fordcombe Road, Penshurst, B2188 New Road, Penshurst and B2188 Saints Hill, Penshurst.

Road Name: Hopgarden Lane, Sevenoaks
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 28th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Ashgrove Road, Oak Lane and Grassy Lane

Road Name: Old London Road, Halstead
Extent: Between A224 London Road and Watercroft Road
Date: 3rd May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: A224 Orpington by Pass, Wheatsheaf Hill and Old London Road

Road Name: Honeypot Lane, Kemsing
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 3rd May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Noah's Ark, St Edith's Road, High Street, Heaverham Road and Watery Lane

Dartford

Road Name: Ship Lane, Sutton at Hone
Extent: Between A225 Main Road and Church Road
Date: 4th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: A225 Main, A20 Main Road/London Road, Button Street and Wood Street

Gravesham

Road Name: White Horse Lane, Meopham
Extent: Between Harvel Road and Dean Lane
Date: 4th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Harvel Street, Harvel Lane and Harvel Road

Road Name: Cobhambury Road, Cobham
Extent: Between The Street and Warren Road
Date: 5th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: The Street, Sole Street, Gold Street, Henley Street and Luddesdown Road

Road Name: Church Lane, Chalk
Extent: Between A226 Rochester Road and Lower Higham Road
Date: 5th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Lower Higham Road, Vicarage Lane, Chalk Road and A226 Rochester Road

Road Name: White Post Lane, Cobham
Extent: Between Round Street and Copt Hall Road
Date: 5th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Round Street and Copt Hall Road

Road Name: Jeskyns Road, Cobham
Extent: Between Sole Street and Round Street
Date: 5th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Sole Street and Round Street

Road Name: Shorne Ifield Road, Shorne
Extent: Between Mill Hill Lane and Thong Lane
Date: 6th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Crown Lane, Forge Lane, A226 Gravesend Road, A226 Rochester Road and Thong Lane

Road Name: Telegraph Hill, Higham
Extent: Between A226 Gravesend Road and Hermitage Road
Date: 6th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Hermitage Road, Forge Lane and A226 Gravesend Road

Tonbridge & Malling

Road Name: Old Church Lane, East Peckham
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 18th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Park Road, Roydon Hall Road and A228 Seven Mile Lane

Road Name: Roydon Hall Road, East Peckham
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 18th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Park Road, Roydon Hall Road and A228 Seven Mile Lane

Road Name: Bewley Lane, Plaxtol
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 19th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: A227 Tonbridge Road, Plaxtol Lane, Tree Lane and Yopp Green

Road Name: Labour in Vain Road, Wrotham
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 19th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Plaxtol Green Road and Tumblefield Road

Road Name: The Heath, East Malling
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 19th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Wateringbury Road, Chapel Street, High Street, Mill Street, Clare Lane, Broadwater Road and Pikey Lane

Road Name: Lower Street, Hildenborough
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 27th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Underriver House Road, Mill Lane, B245 Dryhill Park Road and A227 Shipbourne Road

Road Name: Stan Lane, West Peckham
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 28th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Swanton Road, The Hurst, Gover Hill and Forge Lane

Road Name: Longmill Lane, Plaxtol
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 3rd May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Dunks Green Road, Hamptons Road, School Lane and The Street

Road Name: Vigo Hill, Trottiscliffe
Extent: Between A227 Gravesend Road and Taylors Lane
Date: 4th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: A227 Gravesend Road, A20 London Road, Ford Lane and Taylors Lane

Road Name: Knowle Road, Wouldham
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 6th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: High Street, School Lane and Pilgrims Way

Tunbridge Wells

Road Name: Ethnam Lane, Sandhurst
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 18th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Frittenden Road, Cranbrook
Extent 1: Between A229 to Common Road
Extent 2: Between Common Road to Digdog Lane
Date: 20th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion 1: Common Road and A229
Diversion 2: Frittenden Road, Digdog Lane, A262 Sissinghurst Road, High Street and Common Road

Road Name: London Road, Cranbrook
Extent: Between Frittenden Road and A229
Date: 20th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Frittenden Road, Common Road and A229

Road Name: Spongs Lane, Cranbrook
Extent: Frittenden Road and A229
Date: 20th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Frittenden Road, Common Road and A229

Road Name: Water Lane, Hawkhurst
Extent: A268 one way section to St Ronan's School
Date: 31st April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Water Lane, A268 Rye Road, A229 Cranbrook Road, Potters Lane and Water Lane

Road Name: Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook
Extent: Between A262 Goudhurst Road and Chalk Lane
Date: 21st April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: A262 Goudhurst Road, A229 Angley Road, Hartley Road and B2085 Glassenbury Road

Road Name: Church Road, Paddock Wood
Extent: Between Mile Oak Road and Warrington Road
Date: 26th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Mile Oak Road, Mascalls Court Road, B2169 Maidstone Road, Warrington Road and Church Road

Road Name: Queen Street, Paddock Wood
Extent 1: Between Mascalls Court Lane and Church Road
Extent 2: Between Church Road and Lucks Lane
Date: 26th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion 1: Mascalls Court Lane, Mascalls Court Road, B2169 Maidstone Road, Warrington Road and Church Road
Diversion 2: Church Road, Warrington Road, Maidstone Road and Lucks Lane

Road Name: Fordcombe Road, Speldhurst
Extent: Between A264 Ashurst Road and The Lane
Date: 27th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: B2188 Fordcombe Road, Spring Hill, Saints Hill, New Road, Fordcombe Road, B2176 Rouges Hill, Penshurst Road, Bidborough Ridge, A26 London Road, St Johns Road, London Road, A264 Church Road, Mount Ephraim, Bishops Down and Langton Road

Road Name: Foxhole Lane, Hawkhurst
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 12th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: A268 Rye Road and Hinksden Lane

Maidstone

Road Name: Peens Lane, Boughton Monchelsea
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 18th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Church Hill, Lower Farm Road and Long Lane

Road Name: Lenham Forstal Road, Lenham
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 18th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Forstal Road, Malthouse Lane, A20 Ashford Road/Maidstone Road, Charing Heath Road/Tile Lodge Road and Church Hill

Road Name: Forstal Road, Lenham
Extent: Frontage to Lenham Forstal Cottages
Date: 18th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Lenham Forstal Road

Road Name: Broomfield Road, Broomfield
Extent: Between Ashford Road and Gravelly Bottom Road
Date: 18th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Broomfield Road, Chartway Street, A274 Maidstone Road, B2163 Leeds Road/Upper Street/Lower Street/Penfold Hill and A20 Ashford Road

Road Name: Stickfast Lane, East Sutton
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 18th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: East Sutton Road, A274 Maidstone Road, Tattlebury Road and Tilden Lane

Road Name: Church Road, Otham
Extent: Between Firthwood Close to Whitehorse Lane
Date: 19th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Gore Court Road, A274 Sutton Road, Willington Street and Deringwood Drive

Road Name: Warmlake Road, Chart Sutton
Extent: Between A274 to Ivans Field
Date: 19th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Amber Lane, Back Lane, Wierton Lane, B2163 Heath Road, Plough Wents Road and A274 Maidstone Road

Road Name: Wierton Hill, Boughton Monchelsea
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 20th April 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Lower Farm Road, Church Hill, B2163 Heath Road and Wierton Lane

Road Name: Grange Lane, Boxley
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 6th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Boarley Lane, Sandling Lane and Boxley Road

Road Name: Underlyn Lane, Marden
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 17th and 24th April 2011 between 09.00 – 19.00
Diversion: B2079 Maidstone Road/High Street/Church Green/West End/Goudhurst Road, Sheephurst Lane, B2162 Benover Road and Green Lane/Hunton Road

Schedule 2

Sevenoaks

Road Name: Scabharbour Road, Leigh
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 19th May 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Morley Road, B245 London Road, Watts Cross Road and Philpot's Lane

Road Name: East Hill Road, West Kingsdown
Extent: Between Goodbury Road and Cherry Tree Grove
Date: 26th May 2011 for 6 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Watery Lane, Kemsing
Extent: Between Heaverham Road and Honeypot Lane
Date: 27th May 2011 for 8 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Heaverham Road, High Street, St Edith's Road, Noah's Ark and Honeypot Lane

Road Name: Beldham Haws, Halstead
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 1st June 2011 for 6 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Goodbury Road, Shoreham
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 2nd June 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Birchin Cross Road and Clarkes Green Road

Road Name: Skeet Hill/Park Gate, Crockenhill
Extent: Between Daltons Road and Golf Course
Date: 6th June 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Skeet Hill Lane, Skibbs Lane, Bucks Cross Road, Hawstead Lane and Well Hill

Road Name: Zambra Way, Seal
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 7th June 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Lakeview Road, Sevenoaks
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 8th June 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Lambarde Road, Betenson Avenue and Robyns Way

Road Name: Gordon Road, Sevenoaks
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 9th June 2011 for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Granville Road and Argyle Road

Road Name: Argyle Road, Sevenoaks
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 9th June 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: A224 London Road and Southpark

Road Name: Gracious Lane, Sevenoaks
Extent: Between Gracious Bridge and Hubbards Hill
Date: 10th June 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Oak Lane, Ashgrove Road and Weald Road

Road Name: The Brownings, Edenbridge
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 11th June 2011 for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Forcombe Road/Spring Hill, Penshurst
Extent: Between A264 Ashurst Road and Sandfield Road
Date: 12th June 2011 for 10 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: A264 Ashurst Road, Stonecross, A264 Langton Road, Langton Green, A264 Bishops Down, A264 Mount Ephraim, A26 St Johns Road, A26 London Road, Southborough, B2176 Bidborough Ridge, B2176 Penshurst Road, B2176 Rouges Hill, Penshurst, B2188 Fordcombe Road, Penshurst B2188 New Road, Penshurst, B2188 Saints Hill, Penshurst.

Road Name: Cowden Pound Road, Hever
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 15th June 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Uckfield Lane, Station Road and Hever Warren Road

Road Name: Nicholson Way, Sevenoaks
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 16th June 2011 for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: North Ash Road, Ash Cum Ridley
Extent: Between Ash Road and Redhill Road
Date: 16th June 2011 for 10 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Ash Road and Redhill Road

Dartford

Road Name: Hook Green Road, Southfleet
Extent: Between Whitehill Road and Warren Road
Date: 11th May 2011 for 8 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Dale Road, Station Road, Betsham Road and Highcross Road

Road Name: Dene Walk, Longfield
Extent: From Oakwood Rise for its entire length
Date: 14th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Oakwood Rise, Longfield
Extent: Between Hartley Road and St Marys Way
Date: 14th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Hartley Road, Main Road and St Marys Way

Road Name: St Marys Way, Longfield
Extent: From Main Road for its entire length
Date: 15th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Milton Road, Greenhithe
Extent: Between Church Road and Craylands Lane
Date: 17th May 2011 for 5 working days

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Craylands Lane, London Road and High Street

Road Name: Joyce Green Lane, Dartford
Extent: Between Henderson Drive and Trevithick Drive
Date: 18th May 2011 for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Henderson Drive and Trevithick Drive

Road Name: Rosewood, Wilmington
Extent: From Birchwood Drive for its entire length
Date: 19th May 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Roman Villa Road, Darenth
Extent: Between Darenth Hill and Holmesdale Hill
Date: 19th May 2011 for 7 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Darenth Hill, Green Street Green Road, St Margaret's Road and Holmesdale Hill

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Road Name: Clement Street, Sutton at Hone
Extent: Between Arnolds Lane and Goss Hill
Date: 23rd June 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Goss Hill, Barn End Lane, High Road, Church Hill, Hawley Road, Main Road and Arnolds Lane

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Gravesham

Road Name: Waterlow Road, Vigo
Extent: Between Erskine Road and Harvel Road
Date: 26th April 2011 for 14 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Harvel Road and Erskine Road

Road Name: Highview, Meopham
Extent: From Erskine Road for its entire length
Date: 28th April 2011 for 13 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Erskine Road

Road Name: Evenden Road, Meopham
Extent: From Huntingfield Road for its entire length
Date: 4th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Highwoods Close, Higham
Extent: From Fairview Drive for its entire length
Date: 4th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Fairview Drive, Gravesend
Extent: From Oak Drive for its entire length
Date: 5th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Beech Grove, Higham
Extent: Between Taylors Lane and oak Drive
Date: 5th May 2011 for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Taylors Lane, School Lane, Villa Road and Norah Lane

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Road Name: Ash Crescent, Higham
Extent: Between Oak Drive and Beech Grove
Date: 6th May 2011 for 6 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Oak Drive and Beech Grove

Road Name: Oak Drive, Higham
Extent: Between Norah Lane and Taylors Lane
Date: 6th May 2011 for 6 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Norah Lane, Villa Road, School Lane and Taylors Lane

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Road Name: Cerne Road, Gravesend
Extent: Between St Francis Avenue and Cambria Crescent
Date: 9th May 2011 for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: St Francis Avenue and Cambria Crescent

Road Name: Pickwick Gardens, Northfleet
Extent: Between Dene Holm Road and Masefield Road
Date: 10th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Masefield Road, Painters Ash Lane and Dene Holm Road

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Road Name: Masefield Road, Northfleet
Extent: Between Painters Ash Lane and Pickwick Gardens
Date: 11th May 2011 for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Pickwick Gardens, Dene Holm Road and Painters Ash Lane

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Tonbridge & Malling

Road Name: Swanton Road, West Peckham
Extent: Between The Hurst and B2016 Sevenmile Lane
Date: 11th May 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: The Hurst, Gover Hill, Forge Lane, Mereworth Road, B2016 Sevenmile Lane

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Road Name: Beechin Wood Lane. Platt
Extent: Between Long Mill Lane and Comp Lane
Date: 13th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Longmill Lane and Comp Lane

Road Name: A228 Malling Road, Kingshill
Extent: Between The Street, Mereworth and Gibson Drive
Date: 16th May 2011 for 4 nights between 19.00 – 00.00
Diversion: A26, B2016 Sevenmile Lane, A20 London Road, A228 Ashton Way, King Hill

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Road Name: Puttenden Road, Shipbourne
Extent: Between Hamptons Road and Claygate Lane
Date: 19th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Hamptons Road and Claygate Lane

Road Name: Parkway, Tonbridge
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 21st May 2011 for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Hopgarden Road

Road Name: Hopgarden Road, Tonbridge
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 21st May 2011 for 7 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Sailsbury Road, Norwich Avenue and York Road

Road Name: Copthall Road, Ightham
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 24th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Common Road, A26 Sevenoaks Road and Coach Road

Tunbridge Wells

Road Name: Springhead, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: Between Ferndale and Ferndale
Date: 22nd May 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Ferndale

Road Name: Beltring Road, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 22nd May 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Birling Drive, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 23rd May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: St Georges Park, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 24th May 2011 for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Brenchley Road / Horsmonden Road, Brenchley
Extent: Between Church Close and Spout Lane
Date: 25th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Horsmonden Road, B2162 Maidstone Road, Yew Tree Green Road, Crook Road, Windmill Hill and Brenchley Road

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Maidstone

Road Name: Attwater Close, Lenham
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 28th April 2011 for 7 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Tilefields, Hollingbourne
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 28th April 2011 for 7 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: South Green Lane, Stockbury
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 3rd May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: South Lees Lane, Rumstead Road, Rumstead Lane and A249

Road Name: The Street, Stockbury
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 4th May 2011 for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Hill Green Road, Cradles Road, Lower Hartlip Road, Cowstead Lane and Bull Lane

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Road Name: Blind Lane, Detling
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 4th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Fauchions Close, Bearsted
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 5th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Cambridge Crescent, Shepway
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 5th May 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Nottingham Road, Hereford Road and Northumberland Road

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Road Name: Priory Close, East Farleigh
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 6th May 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00

Road Name: Whitebeam Drive, Coxheath
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 7th May 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Pembroke Road, Hanover Road, Cobtree Road and Linden Road

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Road Name: Norton Road, Sutton Valence
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 8th May 2011for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Warmlake Road, Amber Lane, Wierton Road and B2163 Plough Wents Road

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Road Name: Broomfield Road, Broomfield
Extent 1: Between Ashford Road and Gravelly Bottom Road
Extent 2: Between Gravelly Bottom Road and Chartway Street
Date: 9th May 2011 for 5 working days between 09.30 – 15.30
Diversion 1: Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Water Lane, Cheqworth Road and A20 Ashford Road.
Diversion 2: Chartway Street and Gravelly Bottom Road.

Road Name: Bushy Grove, Broomfield
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 10th May 2011 for 3 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Chestnut Drive, Ashford Road, Broomfield Road, Gravelly Bottom Road and Cayser Drive

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Road Name: Ulcombe Road, Ulcombe
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 10th May 2011 for 5 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: Kings Road, A274 Maidstone Road/ Mill Bank and Tattlebury Road

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Road Name: Lower Road, Sutton Valence
Extent: Entire Length
Date: 17th June 2011for 4 working days between 07.00 – 19.00
Diversion: High Street and Rectory Lane

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate Carriageway Surfacing Dressing works (schedule 1) and Carriageway Micro Surfacing works (schedule 2) to be undertaken by Kent Highway Services.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

BEACHBOROUGH, NEWINGTON, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of tree surgery works to remove overhanging tree canopy, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beachborough, Newington, Folkestone on or after 17 April 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the entrance to 'Coombe Farm' and the entrance to 'Little Orchard'. There will be no access for through traffic between Folkestone and Etchinghill.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, M20 between junctions 12 & 13, (non-motorway traffic via B2064 Cheriton High Street, Cheriton Road and Cherry Garden Avenue) A20, A260 Spitfire Way, Canterbury Road, A2 Dover Road, Bonny Bush Hill, Black Robin Lane, Valley Road, Derringstone Hill, Elham Valley Road and Canterbury Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of surface dressing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Thanet, on or after 27 April 2011 for up to 3 months or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, planned dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below. There are 2 closures for each road, firstly 1 day for Surfacing Dressing and then 1 day for sweeping & lining.

SEAMARK ROAD, BIRCHINGTON
Surfacing on 27 April 2011 then sweeping & lining on 4 May 2011
Alternative route via A28 Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way and Seamark Road
Access to Thanet Earth from A299 will be unaffected

PARK ROAD, BIRCHINGTON
Surfacing on 27 April 2011 then sweeping & lining on 4 May 2011
Alternative routes
EAST BOUND via Shottendane Road, Minster Road, Canterbury Road, Charlesworth Drive and The Parkway

WEST BOUND via Shottendane Road, Manston Road, Park Lane, Stone Barn Avenue, Linnington Road and Cornford Road

THE STREET, ACOL
Surfacing on 10 May 2011 then sweeping & lining on 17 May 2011
Alternative route via B2050 Manston Road, B2190 Spitfire Way and Minster Road

MANSTON COURT ROAD, MARGATE
Surfacing on 28 April 2011 then sweeping & lining on 5 May 2011
Alternative route via B2050 Manston Road and A256 Haine Road

MINSTER ROAD, WESTGATE
Surfacing on 28 April 2011 then sweeping & lining on 5 May 2011
Alternative route via Shottendane Road, Garlinge High Street and Canterbury Road

COTTINGTON ROAD, CLIFFSEND
Surfacing on 10 May 2011 then sweeping & lining on 17 May 2011
Alternative route via Foads Lane, Cliffs End Road, Sandwich Road, Canterbury Road West, A299 Thanet Way, Tothill Street, Foxborough Lane, The Lanes and Grinsell Hill

NASH ROAD, MARGATE
Surfacing on 22 May 2011 then sweeping & lining on 29 May 2011

Alternatives route via Tivoli Road, Beatrice Road (return via College Road), Ramsgate Road, Margate Road and A256 Haine Road

Planned dates are given for each road, but the works are weather dependant and part of a major programme, so it is likely there will be some minor changes.

Roads that are missed will be deferred until further on in the programme, with the revised dates locally signposted.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (STATION ROAD, DITTON) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURN) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the eastbound slip road of Station Road and prohibiting Large Goods Vehicles from turning left onto the A20 London Road from Station Road on or after Monday 11th April 2011 for a period of up to 12 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Hall Road and A20 London Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for mains reinforcement. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Robert Anthony on 01634 276259.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011/12

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling, between the entrance to the short stay car park (adj. 107 High Street) and the junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 17th April 2011 for the dates shown in schedule 1 below, between the hours of 6am to 2pm or until the time stated next to that date. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place for the durations of the events. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for High Street, West Malling will be via A228 Ashton Way, A20 London Road and Town Hill. The alternative route for Castle Way, Leybourne will be via Oxley Shaw Lane.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the Farmers Market, the Christmas lights switch on and the Royal Wedding street party to take place.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Sunday 17th April 2011
Sunday 24th April 2011
Friday 29th April 2011 (until 8.00pm)
Sunday 22nd May 2011 (until 5.00pm)
Sunday 26th June 2011
Sunday 24th July 2011
Sunday 28th August 2011
Sunday 25th September 2011
Sunday 23rd October 2011
Sunday 27th November 2011 (until 8.00pm)
Sunday 18th December 2011
Sunday 22nd January 2012
Sunday 26th February 2012
Sunday 25th March 2012

Katherine Kerswell, Group Managing Director
Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ **Dated 10th April 2011**

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS – Borough Maidstone

(EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Eyhorne Street, Hollingbourne on or after Monday 11th April 2011 for a period of up to 21 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Eyhorne Street , Upper Street, Hollingbourne Hill, The Street, Bredgar, Primrose Lane, Tunstall, Tunstall Road, Woodstock Road, Bell Road, St Michael Road A2, Dover Street A2, West Street A2 London Road A2 Key Street A2 Bearsted Road A249, Sittingbourne Road A249, Ashford Road A20.

Southern Gas Networks Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to provide a Gas mains re-enforcement. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Keith White on 07770 730572.

(BROADWATER ROAD,WEST MALLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Broadwater Road West Malling from the railway approximately 200m north, on or after Wednesday 27th April 2011 for a period of up to 10 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Well Street, Stickens Lane, Mill Street, Clare Lane and vice versa.

UK Power Networks apologies for the inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install a new electrical supply. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Steve Bicknell on 07920 150789.

For further information or comment please call Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

(OXLEY SHAW LANE, LEYBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Oxley Shaw Lane, Leybourne between Roundhay and A20 London Road, on or after Monday 11th April 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Lillieburn and A228 Castle Way and vice versa.

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to upgrade the traffic signals at A20 London Road junction with A228 Castle Way. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Ian Brooks on 01622 666212.

For further information or comment please call Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

KATHERINE KERSWELL
Group Managing Director
Kent County Council
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 2XQ

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PROW - Borough of Ashford

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW136 (PART) WESTWELL)

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINTIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2010

On 03 March 2011 Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered AW136 which commences on the eastern side of the drainage ditch at NGR TQ 99493 46850 (Point A) and runs in a east south easterly direction for 66 metres, thence in a south easterly direction for 186 metres, thence in a easterly direction for 154 metres and thence in a north easterly direction for 231 metres to connect with the existing length of AW136, 44 metres from its connection with Tumbledown Hill (NGR TR 00027 469940 (Point B)) to a new length of length of public footpath numbered AW136, with a width of 2 metres, which commences on the eastern side of the drainage ditch at BGR TQ 99493 46850 (Point A) and runs in a easterly direction for 220 metres, where the footpath crosses the access road to Shottenden Manor for a distance of 6 metres, and thence continuing in a easterly direction for 315 metres to rejoin the existing line of AW136 at a point 44 metres from its connection with Tumbledown Hill (NGR TR 00027 469940 (Point B)). As shown on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL or at the Environment and Waste Unit at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 31 March 2011, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 09 April 2011, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - Borough of Dartford

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS DS1, DS30 & DS3

IN THE PARISH OF SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE

(Public Footpaths, DS1, DS30 & DS3 in the Parish of Swanscombe & Greenhithe)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991.

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close:

Public Footpaths DS1, DS30 & DS3, between point (National Grid Reference) NGR TQ 595 754 and NGR TQ 595 751 from the 25th April 2011.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months, however the works are likely to extend beyond this time limit and an extension may be applied for.

The paths are to be closed to allow groundworks in connection with Ingress Park secondary means of access and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is through Ingress Park along Duncannon Place and Portland Place to rejoin DS1 at the riverside and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Olivia Bonham Tel: 01732 872829 (3).

PROW - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR235 (PART) WROTHAM)

PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINTIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order made under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 will extinguish the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered MR235 which commences at its junction with Pilgrims Way – 20 metres from the junction of Pilgrims Way and Old London Road – at NGR TQ 61004 59584 (Point A) and runs in a northerly direction for a distance of 39 metres to NGR TQ 61004 59584 (Point B).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or the Kent County Council, Environment & Waste at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Sonia Coventry at the address below (Tel: 01622 221512) (email: sonia.coventry@kent.gov.uk) before 13 May 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Kent County Council
Countryside Access Service
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX
Tel: 01622 221512

Dated: 09 April 2011

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

MARRIAGE LICENSES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Hartlip Place, Hartlip, Sittingbourne**
Applicant: **Mrs Gillian Yerburgh**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Ratsbury Barn, Smallhythe Road, Tenterden**
Applicant: **Mrs Jane Kirk**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

MARRIAGE LICENSES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Redrays, Biddenden Road, Frittenden, Cranbrook to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address
Giles Adey, Head of Registration,
Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Pavilion on the Sands, Harbour Street, Broadstairs**
Applicant: **Mr Francis Thorley**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Grangemoor Hotel, St Michaels Road, Maidstone**
Applicant: **Mrs Chantelle Jones**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Dover Marina Hotel, The Waterfront, Dover**
Applicant: **David Otteson**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Best Western Abbots Barton Hotel, 36 New Dover Road, Canterbury**
Applicant: **Christine Cooper**

Name of Premises: **Whitstable Castle, Tower Hill, Whitstable**
Applicant: **Darren Simpson**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

Peugeot launch big assault on D-sector

By **SAM DAVISON**

PEUGEOT launches a potent new upmarket contender this month in the family car or D-sector of the UK car market.

Formerly known as the 'Mondeo' sector due to the ubiquitous Ford, it has since become a fierce battleground where German premium models fare just as well as those from mainstream marques.

The fact is, company car sales still dominate volumes here and 'user choosers' want premium models like the BMW 3-Series and Audi A4.

Such upmarket cars also sell better on the used market after their three years or so on company service, which means less depreciation and lower overall running costs.

It was an equation that didn't add up for Peugeot's outgoing model in this arena, the 507: it wasn't a great drive, didn't look too sharp despite some brave styling and the huge gaping maw of a grille dated quickly. In short, it depreciated badly.

However, these weaknesses seem to have been addressed by its successor, the 508 saloon and SW (sporting estate), which oozes quality and has chic styling based on the French marque's much lauded SR1 Concept Car.

The interior of the 508 combines hi-tech with the use of high quality materials and every detail has been chosen to offer indisputable perceived quality, both visually and to the touch – an area where Peugeot has really raised the stakes in a few short years, notably with the middleweight 308 and 308CC, the 3008 crossover and the 5008 people carrier.

Peugeot also claims exceptional interior space, a generous boot, and a range of powertrains that lower CO2 and optimise fuel efficiency, while enhancing performance and driveability.

Stop-start technology is also available to cut emissions and consumption and there will be a diesel hybrid model in due course.

Priced from £18,150, the 508 range will also include a GT version with different front suspension for keen drivers.

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2009 / 09 : THE ROLLERTEAM AUTOROLLER 200 IS A 2 X BERTH LOW PROFILE COACHBUILT MOTORHOME, WITH A REAR KITCHEN / CORNER REAR WASHROOM.
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£34995

2006 / 06 : THE KNAUS SUN-TI 650 ME IS A 3 X BERTH LOW PROFILE WITH FIXED REAR BEDS (SINGLES OR A DOUBLE) .. HALF GARAGE, FORWARD DINETTE.
£35995

2008 / 58 : THE AUTOSLEEPER DEVON (35TH ANNIVERSARY MODEL) IS A TWO BERTH WITH REAR KITCHEN, MID LOUNGE AND CAB CHAIRS THAT SWIVEL.
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2010(60) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, NIMBUS GREY, 999 miles £12,995
2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, HOT MAGENTA, 2000 miles £12,995
2010(60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, RED, 600 miles £11,995
2010(60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 300 miles £11,995
2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £11,995
2009(09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £10,995
2010(60) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles £10,995
2010(60) FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles £10,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £9,995
2010(10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles £9,995
2010(60) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles £9,995
2010(10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles £9,995
2010(10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles £9,495
2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles £9,495
2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £9,495
2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles £9,495
2009(09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2010(60) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles £7,995
2010(60) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 850 miles £7,995

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS COUPES

2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £23,995
2009(59) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles £19,995
2008(08) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £18,995
2009(58) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles £9,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £9,995
2007(57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles £9,995
2006(56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £8,995
2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,995

NEW FIESTA

2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, HOT MAGENTA, 2000 miles £12,995
2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £11,995
2009(58) FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 3DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 3000 miles £8,995
2007(57) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £6,995

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

2009(09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £10,995
2008(08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £8,495
2008(58) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles £8,495
2008(08) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £7,995
2008(57) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 14000 miles £6,995
2005(55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles £5,995

FOCUS ESTATES

2008(08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1250 miles £9,495
2007(57) FORD FOCUS STYLE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £6,495

RENAULT SCENIC

2009(59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £16,995
2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £8,995
2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £8,995
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles £7,995
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £7,995
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles £7,995
2008(57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £6,995

RENAULT

2010(59) RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION VVT MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles £11,995
2010(10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles £9,995
2010(60) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles £9,995
2010(10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles £9,995
2007(57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles £9,995
2006(56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £8,995
2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,995
2008(08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles £7,995
2008(58) RENAULT KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 300 miles £7,995
2008(58) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles £7,495
2008(08) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £6,995
2007(57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £6,995
2006(56) RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER 16V ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £6,995
2008(57) RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE S VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £6,495

CHEVROLET

2009(09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £6,995
2008(58) CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles £6,995
2009(58) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £6,995
2008(58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £5,995
2008(08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £5,995
2006(56) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £4,995
2008(57) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 24000 miles £4,495

HYUNDAI

2008(58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £6,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, WINE RED, 13000 miles £6,495
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £6,495
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, WINE RED, 7000 miles £6,495
2007(57) HYUNDAI ACCENT ATLANTIC LIMITED EDITION 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £5,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £5,995
2007(57) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI SALOON AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £5,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles £5,495
2006(56) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles £5,495
2005(54) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £4,695

KIA

2009(09) KIA CEED GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £8,995
2009(59) KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £6,995

DAIHATSU

2008(08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,995
2008(08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £6,995
2007(57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £6,495
2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £5,995
2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £5,995

BMW

2009(59) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles £19,995
2008(08) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £18,995
2008(57) BMW 3 SERIES 318I M SPORT TOURING ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £16,995

FIAT

2010(10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles £9,495

FUSION

2010(60) FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles £10,995
2010(10) FORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles £9,995
2008(08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £7,995
2009(09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £7,495

CITROEN

2000(X) CITROEN SAXO SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 50000 miles £2,495

CORSA

2009(59) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles £9,495
2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £9,495
2009(09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles £8,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £8,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,495
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £8,495
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, LANCELOT GOLD, 5000 miles £6,995
2005(54) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £5,495

MAZDA

2008(08) MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO, GOLD, 15000 miles £9,995
2008(58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £9,995
2008(08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £8,995
2006(56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles £7,495
2007(57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £6,495
2007(56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,495

SUZUKI

2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles £9,495
2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2007(57) SUZUKI SX4 GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,495
2007(57) SUZUKI IGNIS GL VVT-S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £5,995

TOYOTA

2006(56) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT4 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 35000 miles £13,995
2007(57) TOYOTA PRIUS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £12,995
2010(10) TOYOTA IQ VVT-I IQ 3DR HATCH AUTO, PURPLE, 6000 miles £9,495
2007(57) TOYOTA AURIS T SPIRIT VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £8,995
2007(07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £7,995
2008(08) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles £7,995
2005(54) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,495
2005(55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 5000 miles £6,995
2005(05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £6,995
2005(55) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 25000 miles £6,495
2007(56) TOYOTA YARIS ZINC MMT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 26000 miles £5,995
2007(57) TOYOTA AYGO BLACK VVT-I MM 3DR HATCH, BLACK, 20000 miles £5,995
2004(04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,495

NISSAN

2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 10000 miles £19,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £17,995
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 5000 miles £16,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 7000 miles £15,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 9000 miles £15,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £15,995
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £15,495
2010(60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 300 miles £11,995
2007(07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH, BLADE SILVER, 4000 miles £11,995
2009(09) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £9,995
2009(58) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles £9,995
2009(59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,495
2010(60) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles £7,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles £7,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 16000 miles £7,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles £6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles £6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
2006(56) NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles £5,995
2005(54) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFE LATTE, 9000 miles £4,995
2005(05) NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £4,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 15000 miles £9,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £9,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, TECHNICAL GREY, 5000 miles £9,495
2010(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £9,495
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles £8,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles £8,995
2009(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,495
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £8,495
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 11000 miles £7,495
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 19000 miles £6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles £6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BEIGEBUFF, 14000 miles £6,495
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANNACOTTA , 17000 miles £5,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 16000 miles £5,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £5,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £5,995

NEW MODEL ASTRA

2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 950 miles £15,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £14,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 5DR HATCH AUTO, STAR SILVER, 1900 miles £13,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2009(09) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £7,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £6,995
2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 18000 miles £6,495
2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 9000 miles £12,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £9,995
2010(59) VAUXHALL MERIVA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO, STEEL BLUE, 3000 miles £9,495
2005(05) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 5995 miles £9,000
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, STEEL BLUE, 11000 miles £8,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 3000 miles £8,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £8,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 13000 miles £7,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £6,995

PEUGEOT

2010(60) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles £10,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £9,995
2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles £9,495
2008(08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles £8,995
2008(08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles £8,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
2010(60) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 850 miles £7,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles £6,995

MITSUBISHI

2007(57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles £6,995

HONDA

2008(57) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £17,995
2008(57) HONDA CR-V ES AUTO 5DR AUTO, SPARKLING GREY, 17000 miles £17,995
2007(07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles £16,995
2006(06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles £11,995
2009(09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £9,995
2008(58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £9,495
2007(07) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 8000 miles £8,495

MERCEDES

2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £23,995
2008(58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £13,995
2010(60) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles £13,995
2009(59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £13,995
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles £12,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles £12,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles £9,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles £9,995
2007(56) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £8,995
2002(02) MERCEDES-BENZ SLK SLK230 KOMPRESSOR CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 38000 miles £7,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2010(60) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, NIMBUS GREY, 999 miles £12,995
2008(57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £11,995
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles £9,995
2006(06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £9,995
2008(58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £8,995
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles £7,995
2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles £7,995
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 16000 miles £7,495

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

2009(59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £16,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £16,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £16,995
2009(59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £13,995
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles £12,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 9000 miles £12,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

2009(F) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH, WHITE, 3000 miles £9,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL MERIVA ENERGY CDTI TD MPV, BLACK, 24000 miles £6,995
2006(06) JAGUAR X-TYPE S D TD SALOON, RED, 72000 miles £6,995
2005(55) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 COLOUR COLLECTION VVT-I 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 33000 miles £5,995
2006(06) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH, AMETHYST, 35000 miles £5,495
2006(56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £5,495
2004(04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,495
2008(08) RENAULT TWINGO DYNAMIQUE 3DR HATCH, ORANGE, 35000 miles £4,995
2007(07) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles £4,995
2003(03) PEUGEOT 206 CC SILVER COUPE, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 27000 miles £4,695
2007(07) FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC 5DR HATCH, GREY, 8000 miles £4,495
2005(05) VAUXHALL AGILA ENJOY 16V TWINPORT MPV, GOLD, 20000 miles £3,995
2006(06) FORD KA DESIGN 3DR HATCH, BLACK, 39000 miles £3,695
2004(04) CITROEN C3 L 5DR HATCH, WHITE, 35000 miles £3,495
2002(51) VAUXHALL ASTRA COMFORT 16V 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 41000 miles £2,695

SKODA

2008(58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £8,995

QASHQAI

2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1000 miles £20,995
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 10000 miles £19,995
2010(59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £19,495
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £17,995
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles £17,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £15,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 7000 miles £15,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 9000 miles £15,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 10000 miles £15,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, ORANGE, 17000 miles £15,995
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Models shown are Astra Exclusiv at £219 per month and Meriva Exclusiv at £239 per month. £225 applies to Meriva Excite and Astra Excite. Offer available to individuals for orders received between 01.04.11 and 30.06.11. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package over 48 months

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Representative Example

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Fiat rolls back years and

DrivingReview by SAM DAVISON

Fiat 500C TwinAir

FIAT continues to amaze the market with a remarkable comeback to financial health and technical innovation.

The Italian brand also has a knack of linking the past with the future, as shown by the Fiat 500C TwinAir, tested this week.

The 'C' denotes that this is the convertible version (from £12,665), but like the opentop roof from the 1950s Fiat 500 Nuevo that inspired the curvy retro lines of the current 500, it is not a full croptop – wind-ruffling comes via a fully-opening roof and the side pillars stay firmly in place.

But that is not the only link with the past, because the car also features a little twin-cylinder petrol engine – the sort of unit that helped get the motoring masses of Italy on the move a few decades ago.

But this modern-day 875cc equivalent also has the capacity – no pun intended – to get the whole world's motoring masses on the move again as we now look to downsize and cut our emissions and fuel consumption.

Called the Twin-Air, Fiat rightly claims that it might be small in size and ecological footprint, but not performance. Thanks to nifty turbocharging, this tiny engine in this tiny car outpunches many bigger contenders. It's fun to throw around, and green, too.

Most cars that limbo beneath the 100g/km CO2 bar to become exempt from road tax are diesel or hybrid, but this petrol marvel escapes that too and without being a drag to drive.

Why would you want a weighty diesel – though you can have one in a 500 and pay more if you wish – when you can have fun with this petrol marvel that averages nearly 70mpg? That's only slightly less than the diesel and it will out-accelerate that too, taking just 10.5 seconds to hit 62mph.

With a diesel more expensive, the fuel costing more at the pumps and a road tax bill to pay on top, there really isn't much of an argument that can be advanced for buying that instead of a TwinAir or, indeed, the 500's 1.2 and 1.4-litre petrol alternatives.

But you knew there was a catch didn't you? Yes, the TwinAir has that thrumming beat that sounds like there is a box of angry pheasants under the bonnet. It's not a deal breaker though when there are so many plusses.

As for going for the convertible: the 500C's not a car that many blokes will buy, especially

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 508 range: Urban 55.4 - 30.4 (5.1 – 9.3), Extra Urban 72.4 – 54.3 (3.9 – 5.2), Combined 64.2 – 44.1 (4.4 – 6.4) and CO_2 154 – 115.

*Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership. +Rentals quoted are exclusive of VAT and exclude maintenance. For 508 models 3 rentals in advance followed by 35 monthly payments. All rentals are based on 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may be payable. Business users only. A guarantee may be required. Over 18s only. Written quotations from Peugeot Contract Hire, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Red Hill. RH1 1QA. Offers apply to eligible vehicles registered and supplied from 1st January to 30th June inclusive.

roof on new 500C

in the dainty blue of the test car – I drove in heavy disguise when I had the top down and one of the week's best wisecracks was "you'll pull the boys in that!"

But the 500 package is hard to resist, with a myriad of options including some stylish leather seats, to enhance the retro premium interior.

The test car came in luxurious Lounge trim with smart alloys, though a price tag of 15 grand starts to put it into BMW Mini Convertible territory – a slightly more butch pram for the boys to buy.

The roof also removes the hatchback convenience leaving a pretty awkward boot opening, though the rear seats still fold and allow some crammability and you can, of course, chuck stuff in via the open roof.

Like the Mini though, it should hold its value on the used market – helped by the many customisation options – and there is the assurance of good reliability due to shared underpinnings from the Fiat Panda five-door runabout.

The Panda's robustness was underlined to me last year when the manager of a car hire firm on a Greek island assured me that the little Fiat was the most bulletproof car on his fleet – praise indeed.

DrivingPortfolio

FIAT 500C TWINAIR LOUNGE £15,265

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★
Value	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How Green?	★★★★★
Road tax	£zero
Best rival	BMW Mini Convertible

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the twee image and the TwinAir engine can be noisy

NOT SURE: the boys will like this rolltop 500 even in a masculine colour

REALLY LIKE: the fun element of body style and engine in an affordable package

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53 FORD Focus 1.8 Ghia, 2004, Manual, Petrol, Hatchback, Bue, 78,000 miles.....£3,495
04 FORD Fusion 1.4 2, 2004, Manual, Petrol, ,Estate, Gold, 60,000 miles.....£3,495
02 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec, 2002, Automatic, Petrol, Estate, Silver, 76,000 miles.....£3,295
52 FORD Mondeo 1.8 Zetec, 2002, Manual, Petrol, Hatchback, Red, 41,000 miles.....£2,995
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Equality ruling sees both sexes lose out

Q In February you advised a young woman reader to sort out her car insurance as quickly as possible because a court ruling was expected to put up her premiums to match those of young men, even though they are a higher risk than young women. I have read since then that this is exactly what has happened, but I have seen nothing about the other point you made, about men's pensions being cut. Has this gone ahead as well? I am 59 and a self-employed electrician. My pension plan is with Aviva. Am I affected? LL

A Bad news for you and other self-employed men, I am afraid. The European Court of Justice ruled that it was unlawful for insurance companies to take gender into account in deciding on any kind of risk. This is why young women drivers are going to see a big rise in the cost of car insurance, when they are bundled together with young men who statistically have far more accidents. At the other end of the age scale, private pensions are affected because men and women will have to be offered the same pension, even though women live longer than men. Until now, private pension plans have made bigger payments to men because they will typically die three or four years earlier than women. That has meant the insurance companies that operate these plans know that they will not have to pay male pensioners for as long as women, so they can afford to pay a little more. For example, if you had reached 65 a few months ago, with a pension pot of £100,000, you could have turned this into an annuity – a pension for life – of about £6,560 a year. A woman of the same age would have been offered about £6,000, because she would have been expected to draw her pension for a few years more than you. When the court judgment takes full effect, which looks like being next year, the woman of your age looks set to get £6,100 a year – a rise of £100 – while you are likely to be quoted exactly the same £6,100 – a fall of £460. There is no way round this. Our courts and our Parliament have no power to over-rule the European decision. If you have been counting on reaching a certain level of pension income, all you can do is put more into your pension plan or carry on working longer, in order to get back to square one.

Q I saw the letter from the reader who was refused compensation over Bradford & Bingley shares. Like most shareholders, I received shares when the building society became a bank. But I, like others, put in more money to keep the troubled bank afloat. I put in £184, and I feel if we are not recompensed then this amounts to stealing. JD

A In case anyone thinks their savings are not safe, I need to explain that your £184 went to buy more shares in Bradford & Bingley. It was not a deposit in a savings account. As a shareholder, you were one of the owners of the bank. If it made profits, you got a dividend. If it went bust, your shares became worthless – and that is what happened. The only dispute is over whether shareholders were told the whole truth in 2008, before they invested in extra shares. The story was that the bank would remain solvent, but it collapsed weeks later, taking your money with it. Nobody has fully explained how this could happen, and we are unlikely to learn what went on unless there is a public inquiry. Perhaps you should try to enlist your MP's support for this.

Q I am writing for advice about a mailing we received from Vital Beauty. We began to fill in the reply coupon but had second thoughts. JM

A Vital Beauty is a mail order company operating from a PO box number in Hampshire. In fact, its real name is Agence de Marketing Applique, and it is based in Belgium. The mailing tells you repeatedly that you are the winner of a guaranteed cheque, and that if you return the correct document you will receive £46,372. But the truth is that this is just a lottery. Vital Beauty hopes you will return the order form and buy its goods, which is what you started to do before sending everything to me. There is one prize of £46,372, and there will be only one winner. The so-called "guaranteed cheque" that everyone else will receive is a voucher worth £1.50 off your next order from Vital Beauty! Save your money.

Q My new PAYE tax code includes the letter "K", but people I work with have codes with the letter "L". Can you explain this? BJL

A Codes with L are the simplest, for people with the basic tax allowance. Replace the letter with the figure 9 and you will get the amount of annual income you can have before tax. K codes are more complicated.
They suggest you have other income, apart from your main job, or owe some arrears. K codes are individually calculated to collect more than the normal tax on your main earnings.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Help with water bills could be on its way

Water bills could be cut for the most vulnerable households under new plans announced by the government.
A consultation published this week builds on the findings and recommendations of Anna Walker's independent review of charging for household water and sewerage services and further analysis by regulator Ofwat on options for tackling bills in the South-West, an area hit particularly hard by high water charges.
Environment secretary Caroline Spelman said: "We know that some households are really struggling with their water bills, particularly in the South-West, where people are paying the highest bills in the country. "Our plans will increase the help available for vulnerable households right across England, with special help for people in the South-West who, through no fault of their own, are battling astronomical water bills during a difficult economic climate."
Proposed reforms include enhancing Watersure, a scheme that helps vulnerable households who pay for their water via water meters, by capping their bills at the level of the average bill for their water companies.

GOING WITH THE FLOW: Water charges could be reduced for poorer households under new legislation due to be introduced.

Under the new plans, bills would be capped at the national average metered bill if this is lower than the company's average, with the cost met by the government. There will also be guidance to introduce social tariffs. This will provide extra help for those struggling to pay their bills by providing guidance for water companies on the design of tariffs, including which households should benefit, what level of cross-subsidy between households is fair, and what concessions should be offered.

Ray of hope for our first-time buyers

By ED FOSS
MyMoney24 writer

The outlook for first-time house buyers remains gloomy, but there is potential for hope on the horizon, according to a new report from a leading UK mortgage provider.

The Road Blocks and Ways Forward report from HSBC seeks to explain why the number of first-time buyers has dropped from around 500,000 to 200,000 across 10 years – and what can be done to increase this figure amidst such difficult economic conditions.

Research has revealed that more than 80pc of non-homeowning adults aspire to be first-time buyers, but fewer than a quarter of these people expect to be able to purchase within the next five years.

Key reasons holding prospective buyers back are difficulties raising the required deposit, insufficient income to support the mortgage, concerns over unemployment and concern over future falling house prices.

But the last of these was put forward by only 12pc of people – lower than some commentators would have predicted.

The current average first-time buyer house price of £136,842 is 6.6 times a young single person's average earnings of £20,654.

With lenders across the industry typically reluctant to lend more than four times income, this leaves an "affordability gap" of 2.6 times income, equivalent to £53,700.

In order to afford a 90pc loan-to-value mortgage – the maximum a standard lender will currently allow – a typical first-time buyer's home earnings would have to be £30,800.

Stuart Beattie, HSBC's head of mortgages, said: "Our study proves that the aspiration to be a homeowner continues to be exceptionally strong.

"More than 80pc of young non-homeowners are aspiring to buy homes but are being prevented from doing so due to a lack of affordable homes. The key to helping buyers back into the market is to help them obtain the cash deposit that responsible lenders require before granting a mortgage.

"To this end, both government and private sector interested parties need to come up with innovative schemes to help aspiring first-time buyers."

Ways forward could include expansion of government-supported shared equity schemes, changes to stamp duty to put the onus more on last-time sellers, and more help to bring empty houses into the market.

The HSBC report also said a return to more 95pc loan-to-value mortgages could be made possible by additional safeguards for lenders and borrowers, such as types of specialist insurance.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

WITH Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding day fast approaching, firms are being advised to make their work policy clear.

The big day has already been made a public holiday but the South East Society of Chartered Accountants has raised fears that employees planning to make the most of the day off could clash with bosses expecting them to work as normal.

More inside.

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Struggling Kent duo fall by the wayside

By **SIMON ROBINSON**
simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO Kent firms have become the latest businesses to buckle as a result of the recession.

Refrigeration giant Blighline Ltd entered into administration after amassing debts of about £6 million, while commercial printer Thanet Press ceased trading and made all staff redundant.

Blighline's management team said they were left with no alternative having been badly hit by "deteriorating trading conditions and severe liquidity problems". Deloitte administrators were appointed on March 23.

Partner Carlton Siddle said: "We will continue to trade the business while seeking a sale as a going concern. The administration team will work closely with management, customers and suppliers during this time to ensure operations continue as normal."

Blighline bosses attempted to restructure the Canterbury-based business in 2010, taking the number of employees down from 200 to 120.

Their principal customer, Tesco, was said to have been "fully supportive" of the money-saving efforts.

However, the firm, based at Lakesview Business Park, Westbere, was ultimately unable to stave off administration. The company built up a £25m annual turnover through sales of refrigeration and display equipment to supermarkets and the catering industry.

Thanet Press had its accounts frozen last month by Barclays after HMRC served the company with a winding-up petition. Insolvency firm CCW Recovery Solutions LLP has been appointed to the business.

A Thanet Press statement read: "It is with regret that the directors of Thanet Press Limited announce that the business has ceased to trade with immediate effect and that the employees have had their employment terminated.

"This action has been forced upon the company due to a reduction in sales arising from intense competition in the UK Print sector leading in turn to cashflow difficulties. The company's bankers, Barclays, froze all bank accounts last week following their review of the business's future. As a result, Thanet Press was unable to pay suppliers or staff and the directors were left with no option other than to cease to trade and appoint insolvency practitioners CCW Recovery Solutions LLP to advise them. There is nothing further the directors can add at this time, save to express their regret at being forced to take such action and to thank all staff, customers and suppliers for their commitment and support over the years."

A Barclays spokesman said: "The Barclays Business Support team, which helps customers facing financial difficulty, has been supporting Thanet Press since early 2009.

"During that time we have worked closely with the business to support them through their difficulties and were in active discussion with the directors to find a way through the current problems. However, once the winding up petition was filed by HMRC we were obliged to freeze the company's accounts.

"We have worked hard to help the company survive and are committed to lending to viable businesses. It is our obligation to lend responsibly to businesses and provide support that helps them grow and thrive."

CCW partner Mark Newman will chair a meeting at the Holiday Inn Express, Manston, on Tuesday, April 12, at which the company is likely to be placed into creditors' voluntary liquidation. The company is due to face the winding-up petition the following day.

END OF THE ROAD: Blighline and Thanet Press have both buckled as the economy struggles

Micro-firms welcome red tape freeze

A THREE-year freeze on new UK regulation for micro-firms has begun.

The Government's moratorium on all new legislation affecting small companies came into effect on April 6.

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) welcomed the move but called on Government to push for similar changes from the European Union.

An FSB spokesman said 72 per cent of the total cost of UK regulation now originates from Brussels and that there have been more than 100,000 pages of new EU regulations since 1997.

FSB Kent and Medway chairman Roger House said: "The FSB has welcomed the Government's commitment to help ease the burden of regulation on these businesses, but we are concerned that regulations coming from Europe will hit small firms harder and as a result they will feel the impact of these much more.

"If the burden of unnecessary regulation is lifted from small businesses, they would be free to get on with creating wealth, jobs and growth. It is worth remembering that if only 50 per cent of the EU's small businesses employed just one extra person there would be an additional 10 million jobs.

"Micro-firms will be in a much better position to plan for their future, grow, innovate and take on new staff, without the worry of constant changes to the law, yet it is disappointing that some of the most burdensome aspects of employment regulation are not included."

ROGER HOUSE

Comment

THE Government's favourite post-recession buzzword is growth and, more to the point, how to stimulate it. The economy has been left in ruins, crushed in part by rising inflation, and companies up and down the country have struggled to make ends meet.

Two established and formerly profitable Kent firms – Blighline and Thanet Press – have gone out of business in recent weeks and many more will go the same way if they cannot rebalance the books soon.

The Government hopes its Regional Growth Fund will give the economy the shot in the arm it needs to get back on track.

Businesses, particularly start-ups, have been invited to apply for a share of the £1.4 billion funding pot.

Critics have argued that the fund is not large enough to reinvigorate the market and the fact that the first round of bidding attracted 450 bids, totalling more than £2 billion, seems to support their argument.

Prime Minister David Cameron has also launched his StartUp Britain campaign, which he hopes will give would-be entrepreneurs the backing, financial or otherwise, to go into business.

Students have also been targeted, with a new Entrepreneur First scheme seeing business-minded undergraduates given support and guidance with help from leading employers.

It will also pay for the creation of enterprise societies in every university in the country.

Chancellor George Osborne's second Budget was also full of growth-minded initiatives.

The 21 new enterprise zones, featuring relaxed planning laws and discounted business rates, corporation tax cut and additional apprenticeship funding, are all intended to give businesses a much-needed boost.

The question now is whether the Government has done enough to secure the growth it is desperate to achieve.

Businesses are still struggling to make ends meet and will continue to do so until customers' disposable incomes, shrunk by galloping inflation, begin to recover.

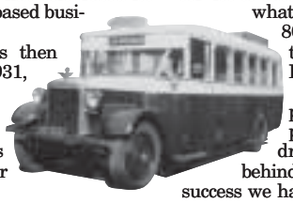
Bringing inflation under control is clearly key to the Government's growth goals and should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

SIMON ROBINSON, Business Editor
Twitter: @KOSbusiness

Still going strong after 80 years

LONG HAUL: Chalkwell has built up a 50-strong fleet since Harry Eglington started in 1931 with one coach, below

CHALKWELL Coach Hire and Tours has celebrated its 80th anniversary. The Sittingbourne-based business reached the milestone on April 1.



Harry Eglinton founded what was then known as Island Luxury Coaches in 1931, with just a solitary coach to his name.

His son Clive, who has taken over at the firm, which now boasts a 50-strong coach and bus fleet, said: "It is with great pride that we celebrate our 80th anniversary.

"When my father started his business in Sheerness on April 1, 1931, with one 26-seat coach operating an express service to east London, where he grew up, he had no idea what the business would develop into. In those 80 years we have developed services such as tours, daybreaks, schools and local bus, and London commuter operations.

"That said, we have remained true to his philosophy and remain a Swale-based, people-driven business with a dedicated staff of drivers, engineers and those who work behind the scenes in our offices. The growth and success we have achieved is thanks to the dedication so many have brought to Chalkwell over the years and the kind support of our customers."

Making policy clear before the big day

ROYAL WEDDING: But not everyone will be able to enjoy the public holiday to celebrate Will's and Kate's nuptials

BUSINESSES are being urged to make their Royal Wedding policy clear to employees ahead of the big day, ***writes Simon Robinson***.

The Government has made Friday, April 29, a public holiday, giving workers across the country the chance to celebrate Prince William and Kate Middleton's marriage.

However, workers in frontline professions, such as nurses, have been told they must work on the day but will not receive any extra pay.

Others have been told they must apply for annual leave. The South East Society of Chartered Accountants (Sesca) is advising firms to make their policy clear to avoid problems.

Sesca president Malcolm Kimber said: "While millions are looking forward to the Royal Wedding, a row over arrangements for staff that have to work on the day is brewing.

"Communication is the key here. If staff are made aware of what the policy is, it can make for a splendid historic occasion for everyone.

"Companies have had a tough time lately and this includes staff, many of whom have seen hours cut and wages reduced.

"Businesses can use this opportunity to show they care about their staff and ensure everyone is paid what they are entitled to and allow them to partake in the royal celebrations if they wish to."

THE University of Kent has joined forces with Kent Connects under a new scheme to give business students a taste of working in the public sector. The link will see the university's Kent Business School's MBA postgraduates take up posts at a range of local authority organisations.

Under the Kent Connects MBA Cohort Programme, councils and other local authority agencies will benefit from the students' business expertise, while the students will gain public sector experience. Kent Business School MBA director Rajendra Shirole said: "This is a superb opportunity for students to engage with project challenges and deliver solutions local authority agencies.

"This relationship with Kent Connects and Kent County Council is undertaken as part of the MBA programme which enables students to work with local and national organisations on key projects.

"These provide real and relevant insight into how the sector is affected by economic challenges and changes.

"The projects also provide a collaborative approach for students to grow business connections, gain a deeper understanding of the challenges public sector organisation face, as well as sharpen their leadership skills.

"The projects are scattered throughout the region and will provide a range of exciting challenges for students."

Kent Connects head Carol Patrick said: "This is an innovative and exciting project enabling us to forge closer links with Kent Business School and its students.

"It is providing students with the opportunity to work on real topics and get a better understanding of the issues affecting local government. For the partners, the project provides an injection of critical thinking and enables a new perspective to be brought to difficult problems.

"We hope that the MBA Cohort will be the beginning of a long-term relationship between Kent Connects and Kent Business School."

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BUSINESS WEEK

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AN AIRPORT business initiative has taken off at Biggin Hill. The LOCATE project aims to bring a diverse group of interested parties together in a collective bid to further develop business potential at the airport.

An airport spokesman said: "LOCATE is the name for a new business initiative that has been developed in conjunction with all landowners around the airport, aerospace partner companies based at the airport, the relevant local authorities of surrounding districts and Bromley council officers.

"The overall objective is to deliver on development potential at the airport for businesses, harness dynamism to enhance skills and competitiveness and engage with the heritage alongside a cluster of businesses at the airport."

A thousand people are employed at and around Biggin Hill, making the airport one of the largest employment centres in Bromley. More than £20 million of capital investment has been carried out at the airport since 2005 – and more jobs and investment are to come.

A SOCIAL enterprise catering company enjoyed a high-profile launch event – serving more than 1,000 diners at the O2.

The People's Food Company, set up by Whistable husband-and-wife team Tom and Angela Bonner, secured the catering contract for the Voice 11 social enterprise event.

The firm offers positions to those who may have experienced difficulty in finding work and reinvests profits into sustaining and furthering its mission for positive change.

Employees handed out snacks and refreshments to guests including Labour leader Ed Miliband and business secretary Vince Cable.

Mrs Bonner said: "It was inspiring and thoroughly enjoyable. It's so amazing to be able to go to such a huge event and give people a drink and a snack with a smile and make such a difference. We had the best time.

"The feedback we received was just so positive we can't wait to start planning for our next event. We have so many great ideas we want to try out and are just raring to go."

ONESAVINGS Bank Plc has opened its new-style blueprint agency in Strood. The Tolgate Lane agency, branded krbs, replaces the former Strood High Street branch.

OneSavings' chief operating officer Tim Sawyer said: "The new Strood agency represents a blueprint for all krbs agencies. Its design is a little different from what we traditionally had and is very much in keeping with our new-look business model."

The new agency can be found at Unit 2 of the Michael Gill Building.

A STUDENTS' Union has been named as one of the country's top 20 best public sector places to work. Kent Union, at the University of Kent, was ranked 19th in the Sunday Times top 100 list.

Just under 250 organisations competed for a place on the list and the views of 49,000 employees were canvassed.

Entrants were listed depending on their commitment to best practice and workplace engagement across eight categories.

Kent Union scored particularly highly in the My Company and My Manager sections.

A Kent Union spokesman said: "This is the third year that we have featured in the Sunday Times list and each year has seen us edge nearer to the top."

Pickles' chamber step given mixed reception

THE Government's local enterprise partnerships will be led by the British Chambers of Commerce, it has been revealed, ***writes Simon Robinson***.

ROLL-OUT: Government minister Eric Pickles has chosen the BCC to lead local enterprise partnerships

The new partnerships (LEPs), which will replace Labour's regional development agencies, have been set up to enable business and civic leaders to respond to their area's specific economic needs.

It is hoped the unique LEPs – including the combined Kent, East Sussex and Essex partnership – will drive forward growth and job creation across the country.

After announcing that the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) will lead the roll-out of the partnerships, local government secretary Eric Pickles said: "The BCC came forward with a very strong proposal and with its network across the country it is well placed to anchor business at the centre of new local enterprise."

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce chief executive Jo James welcomed the decision, saying: "This is a very positive step forward in the LEP process as it will ensure business is at the heart of the agenda. Kent Invicta welcomes the opportunity to work alongside the BCC to the benefit of Kent businesses."

However, some business organisations have raised concerns that awarding one organisation sole responsibility for the LEPs will result in wider business interests not being taken into account.

The Federation of Small Businesses Kent and Medway chairman Roger House said: "We are entirely supportive of the concept of a group which brings together LEPs.

"However, there is more than one business organisation on the ground, each representing different business sectors and with members working hard to make the LEPs a success by dedicating their time to develop them from grassroots level – something the Government wanted.

"For LEPs to be truly effective they need to represent those diverse business interests. Simply picking a single business organisation to run it in this way, with no consultation with the rest of the business community, risks isolating both those businesses which are not a member of any body and those which are members of the groups that haven't been included."

Miles Templeman, the Institute of Directors' director general, said: "We are surprised and disappointed the Government has appointed the BCC to head this £300,000 quango with no consultation or discussion with other business groups.

"We question seriously the need to spend £300,000 of taxpayers' money on a body whose purpose is to lobby national government on behalf of LEPs. No case has been made to us for this arrangement."

Forum of Private Business chief executive Phil Orford said: "Many of our members still don't understand what Local Enterprise Partnerships will do to support economic and employment growth at a local level.

"To now discover that Government has been holding unilateral discussions with one business organisation to provide a national networking and co-ordination body for LEPs, without competitive tender is, frankly, surprising and disappointing and will raise questions about the localism agenda and public procurement policy."

Growing into the role

EAST Malling Research has announced the appointment of Professor Peter Gregory as its new chief executive.

Gregory, who serves in the same position of the Scottish Crop Research Institute, will take up his new position from May 1. The academic, whose specialist interests include aspects of food systems and food security, with a particular emphasis on environmental change, succeeds Dr Mike Solomon, who is retiring for the second time from EMR, having first retired as science director in 2006.

TOP MAN: Prof Peter Gregory

Prof Gregory said: "I am delighted to be joining as chief executive at a time when fruit and food are back in the public eye. EMR's outstanding research is a key element of the UK's future food and farming excellence.

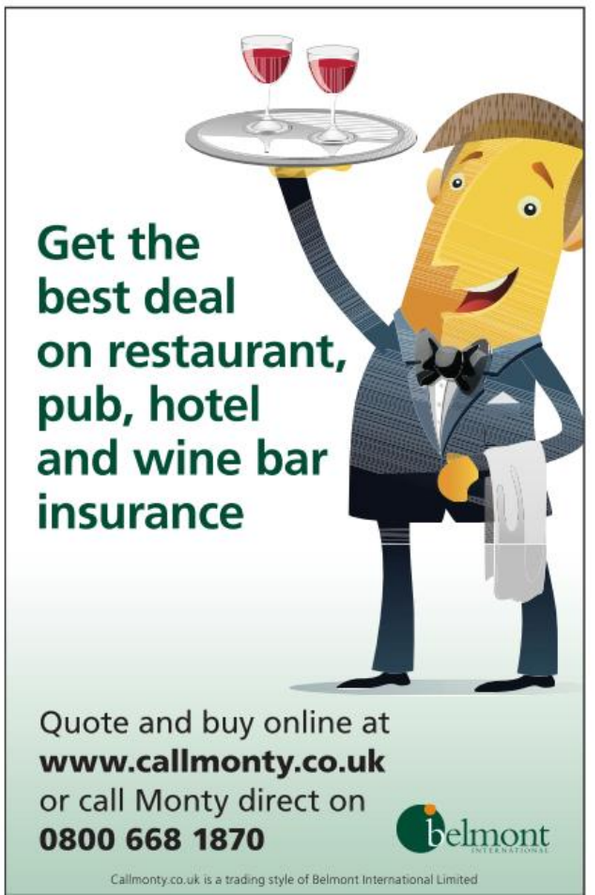
Delighted

"My role at the University of Reading will allow me to project EMR's work internationally and bring a new generation of students into contact with the practicalities and challenges of producing and marketing high quality horticultural foods."

EMR chairman Oliver Doubleday said: "We are delighted to welcome Peter Gregory. Following a distinguished academic career, Peter will be able to build on the great progress made by Mike Solomon over the past two years.

"I am confident Peter is the person to guide EMR's exciting and continuing development as one of the UK's main horticulture R&D providers and extend EMR's remit."

Commenting on the legacy of Mike Solomon, Will Sibley, chairman of East Malling Trust, said: "EMR and the trust owe Mike an enormous debt of gratitude for not only his recent commitment as chief executive since May, 2009, but also the nearly 40 years he has spent at the research station. His work has strengthened its financial base and he has forged stronger relationships with other academic and research institutions."



Tourism cuts concern

VISIT Kent has written to tourism minister John Penrose to raise concerns over the impact local authority budget cuts could have on the industry.

The county's tourism champion fears some of the 'glue' that enables destination management organisations to create successful partnerships could be eroded in current budget reviews.

Chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said: "Local authorities have a key role to play in underpinning the process of bringing various interests together.

"They help create a platform on which destination businesses can stand together, collaborate and interact in the task of delivering a rounded project to visitors.

"We call this a 'sticky' destination, where each part of the visitor's journey plays its part to support the next and where the visitor is encouraged to stay longer because of the myriad of elements to retain their interest and spending.

"It also works to support economies of scale in marketing, such as creating a joined-up presence at exhibitions and trade events."

Matthews-Marsh and Visit Kent investors met with the tourism minister in Dover last month.

While generally welcoming the Government's national tourism policy, Matthews-Marsh called for more to be done to enhance the UK's pulling power.

She said: "We are delighted that, for the first time, the tourism industry has been recognised by the Government as a sector in its own right and as a key driver for rebuilding the economy during the recovery. These are challenging times and we need to deliver radical programmes and put in place the foundations that will enable them to succeed. To stimulate growth, we are backing calls from the Tourism Alliance for all historic properties with significant and covenanted benefit to the public to be eligible for lottery grants; we would like the Real Estate Investment Trust eligibility to include commercial visitor accommodation; and we want hotel building allowances brought back.

"Furthermore, we are calling on the Government to consider creating a level playing field across Europe for our industry. The UK is only one of three of the 27 EU member states which does not apply a reduced-rate of VAT to tourism services.

"A cut in VAT for our sector would make us far more competitive and could see UK tourism earnings increase by seven per cent."

GUEST: John Penrose MP with Visit Kent chairwoman Amanda Cottrell during his Dover trip

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Kent Business School

Inspired rise

KOSmedia BUSINESS WEEK

THE BIG INTERVIEW

I.T. hardware specialist Inspired Technology Services has enjoyed a stellar rise in its short history. The firm went from making a £20,000 loss in 2003 to a £6 million turnover in 2010 after increasing its number of clients from 20 to 450 during the same period.
The Whistable-based computer company's change in fortune has been spearheaded by director ELLAINE MARJOLIN.
She spoke to Business Week editor Simon Robinson about how she helped the business blossom, despite being armed with just a telephone and a list of contact details.

Ellaine Marjolin

MOST of the narcissistic yet incompetent hopefuls on BBC One's The Apprentice will at some point utter the cringeworthy cliché: "I'm a natural-born seller" during their quest to join Lord Alan Sugar's empire.

They usually follow it up with something akin to "I could sell snow to the Eskimos" before spectacularly – and often laughably – failing to deliver on their brash boasts.

This is because selling is a difficult skill to master; consisting of a delicate combination of trust, persuasion, guile and guts.

The majority of would-be Apprentices find the job of parting the customer from their hard-earned cash one of the toughest tasks of the series, and the ones who fail to seal any deals are often quickly given the boot in the boardroom by Lord Sugar.

So it's no wonder the TV executives behind the show have shied away from a cold-calling telephone challenge – for my money one of the most difficult jobs going.

One person who would be unfazed by such a task is Ellaine Marjolin, director at Inspired Technology Services.

THE 29-year-old has taken the Whitstable-based IT hardware firm from a position of losing £20,000 a year in 2003 to a turnover of £6 million last year.

And this was done initially with just a computer, telephone and a database of numbers at her disposal.

"I joined the company in 2003 and was just told to make it work," she said.

"At the time it was me and one other guy working in a horrible little office. All I had was a computer, telephone and a database of public sector bodies and councils, but I got on the phone and opened a few accounts."

The mother-of-two stumbled upon her natural sales skills, having entered the IT selling business after completing a criminology degree at Portsmouth University.

Having risen through the ranks of the firm during the past eight years, elevated by ever-increasing profits, Marjolin has fine-tuned her sales technique.

"A good salesman has to have quite an inspiring personality," she said.

"You have to get people excited to talk to you and find a connection with the person you are talking to. You have to show a genuine interest in them as a person.

"It's also important to know your stuff, let the customers know that you understand their situation and give them confidence. If people feel confident in you, then they will buy from you.

"With regard to maintaining sales, you have to be honest. Don't over-promise and under-deliver, that's the worst thing you could do. The moment you do that the account is closed.

"If you say they're going to get it by Friday and you don't deliver until the following Wednesday, you are never going to get business from them again.

"However, if you say, 'We've got an issue and are not going to be able to get to you before Wednesday but don't want to let you down', then often people will appreciate your honesty and stay with you."

Under Marjolin's guidance, the company has expanded its number of clients from 20 to 450.

Although working predominantly in London and the South East, Inspired also works with customers as far away as Aberdeen and Plymouth.

While clearly proud of her achievements, the director is keen to emphasise the hard work and commitment needed to stay ahead of the competition.

Speaking at the company's John Wilson Business Park base, Marjolin said: "We have hundreds of rivals, everything from giant one-stop shop organisations to little one-man bands. Competition is fierce, but we've got a very good reputation within the industry and where we've provided a service and people are happy they generally come back to us.

"But we have to be constantly cold-calling for new business because accounts dry up. It's about getting new customers all the time."

MARJOLIN comes across as a do-er; the type to get things done rather than stand back and procrastinate. She speaks without the gift-of-the-gab confidence often stereotypically associated with salesmen, but what she lacks in clichés and wafer-thin charm she more than makes up for in determination and enthusiasm.

"I'm very into my work," she said. "It's my passion.

"I'm very hands-on. I totally believe in being out there on the frontline with all the other salesmen. I think that's why we work quite well together as a team.

"We've done so well because we're all in it together for the benefit of everyone. We're like a family. It's that sort of mentality – all focused on achieving the goals we've set.

"I couldn't have achieved what I have without the team around me. We have fabulous sales and purchasing teams and great warehouse and in-house logistic staff, who all deliver an outstanding service."

Marjolin is clearly proud of her achievements at Inspired and feels businesses should employ more women in the top positions.

She said: "I think women have so much to offer. Women are just as driven as men, have the same skills and can also offer a new way of looking at problems and scenarios.

"Sadly, I think there are a lot of talented women out there who are held back because of their bosses feel that they are going to be a mother sooner or later so they just employ a man instead.

ELLAINE MARJOLIN: CV

- Degree in Criminal Law & Criminology, 2001
- HaHa Bar and Canteen Restaurant Manager 2000-2002
- Inspired Technology Services, director, 2003-present
- Active Life – fitness instructor, 2009-present

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

of the ultimate IT girl

SEAL THE DEAL: Ellaine Marjolin and colleagues at Inspired Technology Services' Whitstable office

ELLAINE'S TOP TIPS

- Know your product
- Know your industry/competitors
- Remain focused and motivated
- Stay ahead of the competition
- Never over-promise and under-deliver
- Be honest and care about your clients' needs

"Luckily, I have a good working relationship with everyone here. I think having taken the company from a position of losing £20,000 a year to where we are now has made people take me seriously.

"But I think the number of women directors a company has should be based entirely on merit – you can't put any woman on the board just for the sake of it.

"If the right woman, who is willing to put the work in, graft and offer valuable opinions is available though it is only right that she is given a top job.

"The 25 per cent target for women on boards at the top FTSE 100 firms is a good figure, but I feel it should be a minimum."

Marjolin, mother to Alexia and Zeus, said she had worked hard to find the right balance between work and home life.

"My family is very important to me," she said.

"People say to me, 'how do you do it, how come you're not tired, how come you're so happy?' But I'm working for my kids, to provide for them so they can have whatever they need to be successful.

"My kids are happy. Of course, I would like to spend more time with them. It's hard to get that balance. I think I've got it right. I'm quite lucky because I've got a lot of family support."

Coming back to her job, I ask the dedicated director how tech-mad she is.

"While I'm interested in the application of IT, the latest gadgets are not something that particularly interest me," she revealed.

"I know everything about it and have to find out all about the latest technology, but I'm not that into computers and games consoles. I think it's all a bit excessive, but if people are going to buy it then I am going to sell it to them."

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WINNERS: The SW Doughty team with Richard Benyon MP and Clarissa Dickson Wright

They're a cut above your average village butcher

FAMILY firm SW Doughty has been named the Best Butcher in Britain at the Countryside Alliance awards.

The Doddington-based business took top prize at the nationwide finals, held in London March 30.

Countryside Alliance chief executive Alice Barnard said: "I could not be happier for the Doughty family. This charming business has been trading in Doddington for over 150 years and the family has owned and run the shop and abattoir on its present site since 1919.

"Three family members and three local butchers bring over 100 years of experience to the business. Animals are processed in the small Georgian abattoir one at a time, the pigs are still scalded in a tub and scoured by hand and all the carcasses are carefully dressed by hand and hung for a minimum of two weeks before they are cut to sell.

"The farming community values the abattoir service which those in the industry know is an increasingly rare yet important factor for animal welfare and quality. Doughtys go the distance for their local farmers, who they value and support to the hilt.

"The shop also plays a central role in its community. The character, friendliness and warmth of the team make Doughtys a special place.

"Traditional quality, customer service and the benefit of huge skill and experience in butchery makes Doughtys the out and out winner."

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Shifting gear and location with modern one-stop base

TC MOTORHOMES has shifted up a gear after investing more than £2 million in its new Herne Bay base.

By **SIMON ROBINSON**
simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

The firm, which has traded in Kent for 22 years, made the move earlier this year after outgrowing the Broadstairs site.

The new two-acre motorhome and caravan centre boasts a display area fit for 30 new and 70 second-hand vehicles, sales and service centre and MoT workshop.

Owner Tony Chamberlain said: "We took on this site at Hillborough as it was a fantastic opportunity for us to vastly improve our facilities and offer our customer base the one-stop shop for all their motorhome and caravanning requirements.

"We feel we have the best motorhome and caravan sales and service centre in Kent.

"I am always looking to keep our standard high and to achieve this it's important to keep staff well trained, with the latest information and equipment to do the job.

"It's not cheap to purchase a motorhome or caravan, so it's wise to buy from a firmly committed company like us that has the technical ability and financial resources to maintain a consistent facility for years to come."

The company's service department head, Neal Kinsley, said the new on-site workshop enabled them to further support customers.

"It's important to have your motorhome or caravan serviced on a annual basis to make certain all the systems are in good working order. This enables you to get the maximum enjoyment from your investment.

"We are in the process of qualifying to be a approved habitation workshop.

"This is operated and governed by the national caravan council and ensures the quality of our workmanship is first class."

• ***Visit www.tcmotorhomes.com.***

HOME FROM HOME: The modern workshop and showroom at TC Motorhomes

Attracting investment can be make or break

PHIL BEAVAN: Innovation and Growth

SECURING equity investment is often seen as a holy grail among business owners, but the make-or-break world portrayed by Dragons' Den is closer than you may think, ***writes Phil Beavan***, portfolio director with the Innovation and Growth team.

People seeking finance to grow and expand their businesses are essentially faced with two choices: using their own money or arranging some form of finance – either debt or equity.

But with many businesses continuing to report difficulties in obtaining support from their banks, is equity finance a realistic option for the region's businesses?

Kent boasts some active, structured and keen equity investors, people who are backing businesses now and always looking for new opportunities.

We are certainly always interested in talking to businesses who feel that equity backing is right for their business.

So what does it take to attract a potential investor and what are they looking for?

One thing that you most certainly do not need is a revolutionary new product or idea.

In fact, if it is a completely new concept or invention then the likelihood is the value of the business will be surprisingly low, unless you have sales going through.

A good understanding of your market is key as well as knowing how, and why, you'll attack it, and the abilities of the management team can never be underestimated.

A great management team will make a success of the most mediocre idea, whereas a poor management team will mess up even the best concept. The product or service is neither as interesting or as important as you think. If you are planning on speaking to potential investors, then you need to prepare a short but concise business plan, no more than seven pages. It needs to cover:

- What is the market opportunity?
- Who are your competitors?
- Costs, selling point.
- Promotion and distribution.
- Risks and threats.
- Management team.
- How much do you want?
- How will the investor get their money back?

As for the investors themselves, they are ready and waiting.

We have been approached by a number of business angels in the last few weeks who are actively looking for opportunities as they are in a position to invest now.

REFRESHED: Ramada Hotel at Whitfield

Ramada turning over a new Leaf with makeover

RAMADA Hotel in Dover is undergoing a makeover after a £500,000 investment.

The on-going improvements include a new restaurant, bar and lobby, together with the installation of flat-screen TVs and a new guest information system in all 68 bedrooms.

General manager Gehan Dias-Bandaranaike said: "This refurbishment will enhance our reputation as one of the only prestigious branded four-star hotels in east Kent and will enable the Ramada Hotel Dover to continue serving local, corporate and leisure clients alike by offering competitive prices, excellent service and a warm welcome."

The hotel, just off the A2 at Whitfield, is owned by Leaf Hotels, which also runs the recently renovated Best Western Dover Marina Hotel & Spa on the seafront.

Heseltine will oversee growth fund bidding

BIDS: Lord Heseltine

THE second round of bidding for the Government's much-criticised Regional Growth Fund will begin on Tuesday.

Businesses can submit applications for a slice of the £1.4 billion pot, which is then allocated by a team headed by Lord Heseltine, pictured above.

The first £250 million RDF phase, which closed in January, attracted 450 bids totalling more than £2bn.

Lord Heseltine said the fund was aimed at pumping money into start-up businesses, particularly in areas that have traditionally been reliant on the public sector to create jobs.

Opponents to the plan have raised concerns that the £1.4bn available is not large enough.

Labour has hit out at the fund, saying it is a poor replacement for their regional development agencies, which have been scrapped.

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on Legal matters

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COMEBACK: Benn Barham played his first competitive tournament since his operation

Barham back on course after cancer scare

AN IMPORTANT psychological hurdle was cleared by Benn Barham last weekend as he made a successful return to the European Challenge Tour.

It was the 35-year-old's first tour event since last October, spending the interim period recovering from surgery to remove one of his kidneys, which contained a cancerous tumour.

Barham hit the ground running at the Kenya Open, making an eagle at the 10th hole en route to a two-under-par opening round of 69 to become one of the frontrunners.

A two-over-par 73 in round two saw the Tenterden golfer comfortably make the cut, before back-to-back rounds of 74 at the weekend saw him finish in a tie for 63rd place at the Muthaiga Golf Club, near Nairobi.

While Barham was a little frustrated not to finish higher up the standings, overall he was pleased to be playing after such a long time away from competitive golf.

"To play four rounds was a good achievement. I haven't played a massive amount of golf, but the fact I was playing some good stuff was encouraging," he said.

"I played well and didn't feel particularly tired. When I wasn't at the golf club I got a lot of rest, which is important. I was keen to put myself through it rather than be too protective, so I tried to play as much as possible.

"I was very apprehensive before I played. It's one thing playing well with your friends but when the gun goes off in a tournament it's totally different. Under that sort of pressure your weaknesses get highlighted and you learn a lot more in that sort of environment than you would on the driving range."

Barham will spend the rest of the month working on improving his game. His next appearance on the Challenge Tour will be at the Allianz Challenge de France, held at Disneyland Paris, which begins on May 5.

Brit pack lead way in hunt for The Open

Home players in with chance of glory at Royal St George's

By DAVID PRITCHARD

A SURGE in success of UK golfers to the pinnacle of the sport has prompted organisers of this summer's Open Championship in Kent to believe it could be a "special tournament".

The latest world rankings show players from the Home Nations occupying half the top 10, all of whom could figure in the race to win the US Masters at Augusta, which reaches its climax on Sunday.

COUNTDOWN TO THE OPEN

95 DAYS The famous fifth green on the Old Course at St Andrews is an enormous 95 yards from back to front

Lee Westwood became world number one last year, while Graeme McDowell is the reigning US Open champion. Luke Donald, Paul Casey and Rory McIlroy are also inside the top 10.

The prominence of UK players at the forefront of the sport, plus Europe's Ryder Cup win last October, has served to increase golf's popularity across the country.

It should manifest itself this summer, with the quintet, injury permitting, among the favourites to win the coveted Claret Jug at the Open at Royal St George's in Sandwich.

EYES ON THE PRIZE: Lee Westwood is one of several UK players in the top 10

Michael Wells, assistant director of the championship for organisers The R&A, believes it has created an unusually high anticipation for this year's event.

"Every Open Championship is special, but this one in Kent is going to be even more so with the number of UK players in the top 10," he said. "There is a huge appetite for golf and hopefully come the Sunday [of the Open] all five will be near the top of the leaderboard.

"With Westwood in particular, people are very expectant of him at the Masters this week and hopefully that's going to bolster people's enthusiasm. I think if the weather holds out and we get a good Open – we are due one – it could be a really special tournament."

Despite the recession, ticket sales are reportedly well on track to reach the target of 180,000 across the week, matching the figure set on the Open's last visit to Sandwich eight years ago.

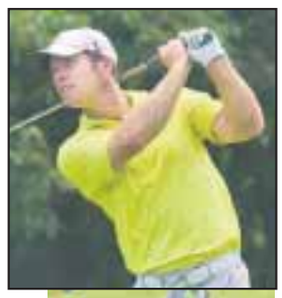
Although adults can watch one of the practice days for as little as £12.50, the cheapest ticket for one of the four competition days is £55 if bought in advance. It is seen by some as expensive, but Wells believes when compared to other sports it represents value for money.

He said: "We look at ticket prices very carefully. What we have to remember is that coming to the Open you have a whole day's worth of golf. For that we think the ticket price is good value and we would absolutely benchmark ourselves against other sporting events.

"If you went to a football match in the Champions League this week you would probably pay the same if not more for 90 minutes. To be able to see the world's best golfers play for 10 hours, that's good value."

Final preparations at Royal St George's are due to begin later this month, when the first contractors arrive. The process of building grandstands to seat 16,000 spectators starts in a fortnight, ahead of work on the tented village in June.

Pictures: McDowell and Rory McIlroy: ADY KERRY



FAB FOUR: (l-r) Rory McIlroy, Luke Donald, Graeme McDowell and Paul Casey will all be aiming to get their hands on the Claret Jug

Duo running out of time to beat the drop

STRUGGLE: Kent side Westcombe Park have found life tough in National 2 South

TWO of Kent's biggest rugby clubs have just four games left to save themselves from relegation before facing each other on the final day of the season.

Canterbury and Westcombe Park are involved in a three-way tussle to beat the drop from National 2 South, along with Shelford, and just two points covered the trio heading into this weekend.

While Combe have spent much of the season in the drop zone, Canterbury have slid dramatically down the table in the second half of the campaign.

"It's not looking particularly good," admitted head coach Danny Vaughan. "We are right in it and we've got to be strong, but unfortunately we're low on confidence.

"There are lots of scenarios and Westcombe Park have come good, but if we end up with less points, we'll just know we haven't been good enough."

After suffering a mid-season run of 10 straight defeats, Combe's position looked terminal, but four wins in the last six weeks have given head coach Simon Jervis genuine belief they can still survive.

"Every game is massive now," he said. "Our performances have improved and our results have improved, so we feel happy at the moment. We can't be complacent and think we've done enough, though."

Survival is of such vital importance to both clubs because of the increasing strength of National 3 London & South East, the division waiting on the other side of the relegation trap-door.

Jervis, who is also involved with the county set-up, said: "It's important for Kent that we've got teams playing in the National League. It would be nice if it didn't come down to the last game of the season because it's good to have the rivalry with Canterbury."

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

BE STRONG: Danny Vaughan says his side are running low on confidence this season

Finances a potential road block for Gilham

By DAVID PRITCHARD & STEVE TERVET

FINANCIAL problems are threatening to undermine Tony Gilham's participation in the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) just one week into the new season.

The withdrawal of a major sponsor has left the Dartford driver frantically searching for a replacement in time to take his place on the grid at Donington Park next weekend.

It comes just days after the 31-year-old made an excellent start to his BTCC career on his debut at Brands Hatch last weekend.

Despite spending less than an hour testing the car before qualifying, Gilham was immediately competitive and got faster as the weekend progressed.

A hat-trick of top-10 finishes represented a success, but Gilham is hoping it is not a one-off.

He said: "We need something to happen before Donington so we can even be there. We've had lots of good feedback from last weekend, I've been speaking to 100 companies a day, but it doesn't mean anything until the money's in the bank.

"We want to carry on trying to prove ourselves because we showed at Brands we can be quick."

There was mixed news at the meeting for Wrotham-based Motorbase Performance. Competing as Airwaves Racing in the championship, the team's drivers had contrasting fortunes.

Mat Jackson claimed two podium finishes across the three races to move second in the drivers' standings, but Liam Griffin had a retirement and two 18th places to show for his endeavours.

David Bartrum, Motorbase team boss, said: "Mat Jackson is exactly where we thought he'd be and we've had three very good results from him. If we bank points like that at every round, we have a good chance at the title. It's the first leg of a 10-round championship, we're in a very good position and it can only get better."

Elsewhere, Pembury's Shaun Hollamby was left with plenty to ponder after Tom Onslow-Cole earned his AmD Milltek Racing team their best finish since entering the championship last season.

Onslow-Cole drove the VW Golf home 13th and 12th either side of a retirement. Hollamby felt only technical issues had prevented him from challenging even higher up the field.

"Tom had a great debut for us and the only issue is our straight-line speed is not as high as we'd hoped," he said.

"Off the circuit, Tom raises our profile. We had more TV coverage last weekend than we did last season and that's because we are a news story. We're in the entertainment business and we have to find new ways of making it interesting."

Pictures: NICK DUNGAN

TOP-TEN FINISHES: Tony Gilham made an excellent start in his BTCC debut at Brands Hatch last weekend, while Mat Jackson (inset) claimed two podiums for Motorbase Performance

Crusaders slay Dragons in big play-off shock

PROMOTION via the back door could be a possibility for Medway Park Crusaders after they sprung a major surprise to reach the Division Two basketball play-off final.

The Gillingham-based side stunned league champions Bradford Dragons 98-73 last weekend to upset the form book and win their semi-final.

A first major final, against Westminster Warriors in Manchester, awaits next weekend. While winning the play-offs does not come with a promotion spot, the Crusaders believe they have a chance of playing in Division One next season – and reaching the final can only strengthen their case.

James Vear, Crusaders' head coach, said: "The league above has had a few teams drop out down to financial difficulties and there are opportunities for teams to move up, but the team has to be good enough to play at a higher level. The fact we finished fourth [in the regular season] may make the league think we're not ready, but winning the play-offs would be a huge thing.

"[With] the facilities and structure we have at the club, we want to go into the next division and the quicker that happens the better. You never now, there's a chance of going up [this summer] and we have applied."

The improved facilities at Medway Park, which has one of the best courts in the country, was central to the club relocating from Canterbury last year.

Promotion would see them rub shoulders with the likes of London Leopards and Reading Rockets in the second tier, but they will have to be patient, with the league unlikely to make a final decision until the summer.

Club says RFU ignored key eye-gouge evidence

MAIDSTONE Rugby Club claim the Rugby Football Union (RFU) overlooked key medical evidence before punishing them for the incident which blinded an opposition player in one eye.

Clarence Harding was seriously injured playing for Gravesend against Maidstone in a Kent Cup tie at The Mote on January 17 last year.

Investigations by Maidstone and the police found no-one guilty of injuring Harding, but the RFU, after two disciplinary hearings, fined the club £2,000 and docked them 50 league points, effectively condemning them to relegation.

The RFU ruled an unnamed Maidstone player had deliberately eye-gouged Harding, although their initial hearing found Matt Iles not guilty. Maidstone abandoned their appeal against the final decision, but they now claim the sport's governing body ignored the opinion of the eye surgeon who examined Harding after the incident.

BLINDED: Clarence Harding

A Maidstone statement read: "The RFU based its conclusions for the cause of the injury on evidence given by its own medical expert, who did not examine Clarence Harding, that it was caused by one or two fingers deliberately inserted into the eye and dismissed counter evidence from an eye surgeon, who did examine him, that the injury could have been caused in a number of ways.

"The 'fishing for or scooping' for a ball on the ground with a hand could well have caused a blow to the eye without the player realising what he had done and the player concerned could have come from either side.

"Indeed, the blow could also have been from a stud or boot and this theory was raised by our defence counsel at the RFU hearings but dismissed, although there is precedence for this cause."

Maidstone strongly deny claims they have closed ranks to protect the perpetrator and pointed to the fact no citing charge was ever brought against one of their players by Harding.

Their statement continued: "We cannot help but believe that Maidstone Rugby Club has been singled out and chosen to be made an example of in this case, and, as a consequence, the reputation of the club, its members, officers and players have all been unfairly and unduly tarnished."

An RFU spokesman said the process had been thorough.

He said: "The RFU is confident that all the correct processes for this case were followed, including the presentation of evidence, and that Maidstone were given a fair and just opportunity, including an appeal, to present their case. This case was dealt with by three separate three-person RFU disciplinary panels. All nine members of the panels have extensive knowledge of law and are vastly experienced in rugby disciplinary matters."

Touring car legend **TIM HARVEY** has teamed up with Archant KOS Media this season to bring you a weekly column as he looks to retain his Porsche Carrera Cup title. Harvey, who was brought up in Sevenoaks and schooled in Tonbridge, is in his second spell with Wrotham-based team Motorbase Performance.
He describes his defence of the Carrera Cup crown as well as sharing his thoughts as an ITV commentator, on the British Touring Car Championship

'Plato showed his class in first BTCC meeting'

THE first weekend of the new British Touring Car Championship was a good one for Jason Plato, who won two of the three races to go past Andy Rouse's record of 60 wins.

However, he'll have seen enough to know he's going to be up against it with the turbo-charged Hondas. Plato won most races and took most points, but with Matt Neal going off in the first race, the Hondas didn't maximise their opportunity.

Those sort of records do mean a lot to drivers when it's as big a milestone as that. Nobody thought 60 race wins would ever be beaten, but there are now 30 races per year and in Rouse's day there used to be 12. It's a lot easier to rack up wins in a good car, but that doesn't diminish Plato's achievement of winning that many races in different cars.

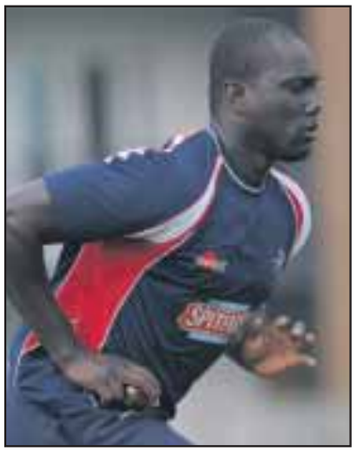
Mat Jackson came home fourth in the first race for Airwaves Racing and then went on to pick up two podium finishes. It's not because I'm a fellow Motorbase driver, but with my ITV pundit's hat on, I tipped Jackson for success this year. He's a brilliant driver and the team totally outperformed the factory Aon works team at Brands Hatch.

Meanwhile, I started the defence of my title in the Porsche Carrera Cup, where there's already been a fair bit of controversy surrounding the championship. The whole principal is fairness and equality, a one-make championship, but Porsche have made a big mistake this year with the new car regulations.

Originally the car was going to be 10 kilograms lighter than last year, but they've actually made it 20kg heavier and we've got a situation where there's not a single driver who can make the minimum weight for car and driver. The championship is now handicapped by driver weight. It's such a big error, but Porsche are not willing to admit it.

I did well to qualify fourth, bearing in mind the weight issue. The first race was very disappointing as I picked up a puncture and had to go into the pits. In the second race I got fourth, which became third when another driver was given a penalty for using too much of the circuit.

My team-mate, Michael Caine, finished sixth and seventh, but we're very equally matched drivers so it shows there's a lot of work to do on the car at Motorbase ahead of the next meeting at Donington on April 16-17.



SHOULDER HELL: Robbie Joseph has been out injured for almost two years

Robbie ready to roar after his injury hell

ROBBIE Joseph says he is fit and ready to get his career back on track after spending almost two years on the sidelines through injury.

The fast bowler is on his way back from a shoulder injury which has seen him play just nine games in all competitions in the last two seasons.

Now, after two operations on his right shoulder, the 29-year-old is edging closer to match fitness and could be included in next week's LV= County Championship game at Northamptonshire.

After spending some of the winter training in Australia, he has participated in all of Kent's pre-season preparations and was close to inclusion in the championship game at Essex, which began on Friday.

It's a crucial year for Joseph, who is in the final year of his contract at Kent. There's no doubt at his best he can be one of the best quick bowlers on the county circuit, but there will be a concern that those performances were two years ago and questions have been raised about whether he can play a whole domestic summer.

It's a scenario not lost on Joseph, who has been through a lot since suffering a dislocation in his shoulder in 2009.

"I'm happy and reasonably optimistic that everything is okay with the shoulder," he said. "I've done everything I can and if any other challenges come up then hopefully I will be able to deal with them in the same way I've dealt with everything else.

"It's been a long time, two years sitting around with the injury and then getting fit and ready again. I wish I could say it was an easy road to walk down, but it wasn't.

"In my head I think I should be better than where I am at, but I have got to remember that it has been two years. For me, I feel like I'm ready but it's not my decision."

Shreck to the rescue as injuries hit pace attack

Kent make loan signing after seam duo are ruled out

By GLENN PEARSON

AN INJURY crisis in the week leading up to Kent's first game of the season forced the club to dip into the loan market and sign seamer Charlie Shreck.

The Nottinghamshire right-arm fast bowler signed for the club on Thursday afternoon before lining up for Rob Key's side in the LV= County Championship opener at Essex, which started on Friday.

The 33-year-old will play at Kent for a month after injury ruled both Matt Coles and Azhar Mahmood out of the trip to Chelmsford, although it's hoped Coles will be available for next week's game at Northamptonshire.

With Robbie Joseph still feeling his way back to fitness after almost two years out injured, and Dewald Nel (back) and Ashley Shaw (shins) both sidelined, it leaves the county's seam department thinly stretched.

Shreck is also working his way back to fitness after a shoulder injury at the beginning of last season and will be keen to impress while at Kent to force his way back into the Notts side.

"I'm grateful to Kent for providing me with an opportunity to play first-team cricket and my aim is to make a positive contribution in their early fixtures and to return to Notts in good form," he said.

The 33-year-old made his county debut for Notts in 2003, claiming 307 first-class wickets at 30.58, and Kent's director of cricket, Paul Farbrace, is pleased to have a bowler of his experience available for a month.

He said: "We are really pleased that the deal has been agreed with Notts and we now hope that Charlie will do very well for Kent. He has performed over the years for Notts and we hope he will do so in Kent colours."

In the past Kent have used the loan system to good effect with Steffan Jones joining from Somerset for a month in 2009 and Martin Saggers bowling himself back into the Kent side in 2007 after a period at Essex.

Elsewhere, Neil Saker, who has been on trial at St Lawrence during pre-season, will stay with the squad for at least the first half of the season as a back up bowler. He was put on standby for the first game of the season at Essex after impressing Kent's coaching staff, although he is not under contract at the club.

"He knew when he came that we are limited in terms of finance, but we do have opportunity and that was explained to him," said Farbrace. "He wants to get back into county cricket so it's a case of playing as a non-contracted cricketer and see how things go.

"The Essex game may have been as close as he comes to playing, the others might get themselves fit, bowl well and then Dewald Nel comes back in a few weeks.

"He is a contingency plan and he is a good one to have."

All pictures: ADY KERRY

STAND-IN: Charlie Shreck (left, facing camera) has been brought in on loan to bolster Kent's fast-bowling unit and (right) Neil Saker is to stay on after his trial period

AGM highlights tough times ahead

MEMBERS were told to be patient at Kent's Annual General Meeting as the club look to steer a course through some tough times both on and off the pitch.

Tuesday night's meeting at the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury passed relatively quietly, with members seemingly understanding about the financial uncertainty facing the game after 15 of the 18 first-class counties posted combined operating losses of more than £9 million for the last financial year. Kent's were £595,000.

Chief executive, Jamie Clifford, told a room of about 250 members that the club were still committed to building a hotel as part of the redevelopment of St Lawrence, describing it as "a critical part of the project".

Members were also told that the ground would be ready for Kent's first home game of the season, although the pavilion, which is to be modelled on the Long Room at Lord's, will be delayed by five or six weeks.

Clifford also told members the commercial department, led by Pat Mellsop, had been set a target of attracting £170,000 of investment since the end of the financial year, and that a figure of £296,000 has already been generated.

Clifford said: "There are going to be challenges because the game is under considerable stress and we need to be mindful of that as we move forward."

Chairman of cricket, Graham Johnson, explained how the club's financial situation meant nearly £300,000 had to be shed from the cricket budget and was the principal reason for letting Amjad Khan leave towards the end of last season. He didn't close the door on an overseas player at some stage this season, but did ask for patience from members as the club look to give the youth a chance.

"We are not going into the season with an overseas player," he said. "Can I see any circumstances when one might be needed or might arise? Perhaps. But the assumption has to be that 2011 is a year we rely on the young talent. They are a lot of young guys starting out, do not be too upset if they have a bad day at the office."

CHALLENGES: Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford (right) addressed members at the AGM

Dubai training stint vital, says Stevens

ALL-ROUNDER Darren Stevens believes Kent's pre-season trip to Dubai will help the players in the early stages of the season.

The Kent squad spent eight days at the ICC Global Cricket Academy in Dubai at the end of last month in preparation for the summer. Stevens, who experienced pre-season trips during his eight years at Leicestershire, hopes the trip to Rod Marsh's academy will help Kent, traditionally slow starters, off to a good start.

"At Leicester we went away every year, we went to Barbados and a couple of places in South Africa and we had good trips there, but this pre-season with Kent was probably the best I have been on," he said. "Specifically for training and practice, we couldn't have asked for anything more.

"In all the years I have been at Kent we have been behind the eight ball for the first game so hopefully that will have helped."

The 34-year-old was the first player to put pen to paper on a contract extension during the off season and says he did so as repayment for the club's faith in him when he was released by Leicester in 2004.

He said: "They were committing themselves to me and they have given me an opportunity to further my career in the last six years or so since I was released from Leicester, so in a way I felt I owed them one.

"I still believe in the boys that we can win a one-day competition and I believe if we stay fit and stay together as a squad, that being the office staff, ground staff and the players – because it is going to be a tough year for us all – we could bring home a couple of trophies."

FAST START: Darren Stevens hopes Kent will hit the ground running

Pictures: ADY KERRY

In the red

DEFICIT: Paul Scally thanked supporters for taking up a season ticket offer to boost cash flow, but the club has still recorded big losses

By DAVID PRITCHARD

If the Gills lost £463,098 in 2009-2010, how bad will the 2010-2011 figures be?

GILLINGHAM'S latest accounts reveal the extent of their financial problems, with the club reporting a loss of almost half a million pounds.

The bleak set of figures, which cover the 12 months up to May 2010, showed overall losses after taxation were £463,098 – more than £200,000 greater than for the previous year.

The overdraft stood at £3,371,403, an increase of nearly £300,000 from 12 months earlier. However, increased reserves at the bank and other savings mean net debt has fallen marginally to £3.18m.

Wage budget

The difference stems from falling turnover, down almost £90,000 to £4.78 million, while costs rose more than £300,000. The latter figure was partly explained by an increasing wage budget, up more than £135,000 as the total number of staff employed in all sections of the club rose from 82 to 87.

It reflects the tough economic climate, but Gillingham's balance sheet would have been worse but for a loan of almost £400,000 from director Michael Anderson, who was appointed to the board in June 2009.

The picture is unlikely to improve dramatically any time soon. Alarmingly, the increasing losses came in a 12-month period in the wake of a play-off final victory at Wembley, when they played in League One.

Supporters will be concerned the situation has worsened since last May, with average attendances at Priestfield down about 1,200 this season following relegation back to the fourth tier.

In a bid to help the situation this spring the club offered season ticket holders discounted rates for next season if they signed up by last month.

In his programme notes for Saturday's game against Hereford, chairman Paul Scally, who was unavailable for comment on the accounts, reported almost 2,000 supporters had taken advantage of the offer, thanking them for "coming to help our cash flow over these difficult trading months."

The figures show Scally was paid £173,913 for consultancy services during the year, an increase of more than £20,000. Scally's wife, who is a director, was paid just over £20,000, also for consultancy services.

Another blow was delivered on Tuesday, when the Football League agreed to a reduced television deal for the three seasons from 2012/13. The contract was a reduction of just over a quarter on the previous deal, meaning all Championship, League One and League Two clubs will be significantly worse off.

Greg Clarke, chairman of the Football League, admitted it had been a "challenging climate" in which to negotiate.

He said: "I am confident that our clubs will take heart from seeing such a significant ongoing investment in their competitions, despite a reduced level of broadcasting income, as it provides financial certainty in uncertain times."

The BBC decided to retain their existing package of live games and highlights, so discussions continue between the league and other broadcasters over free-to-air highlights.

Have scholars made the grade?

DECISIONS are imminent on which of Gillingham's promising youngsters will be offered professional contracts for next season.

The club have eight teenagers coming to the end of their two-year stay in the youth section at Priestfield.

Meetings between the club's coaching staff were due late last week to discuss the group and decide which players will be asked to join the first-team for pre-season training this summer. The rest will be released.

Andy Hessenthaler, Gillingham's manager, is optimistic some deals will be tabled, but admitted he never relishes the process, which inevitably leaves some players without a club.

"It's a tough time for the boys because they are waiting to see what their future holds," he said. "It's not an easy job for the youth section, especially for the ones you're not going to keep.

"There will be some offers definitely, everybody will know about it in the next few days."

Given the harsh economic climate which impacts on the money available for transfers, a thriving youth set-up is vital to clubs like Gillingham.

It has produced several notable players in recent years, including England's newest cap, Matt Jarvis, and Wales international Andrew Crofts, while Jack Payne and Luke Rooney have regularly featured this season.

Of the eight players up for discussion, only Callum Davies has played for the first-team. An injury crisis at centre-back saw him drafted in to start against Crewe Alexandra in November, but his debut lasted just 28 minutes before he was sent off for a professional foul.

DECISION TIME: Callum Davies

GILLINGHAM'S SECOND YEAR SCHOLARS

- Ryan Benniman
- Alex Brown
- James Brown
- Tom Brunt
- Callum Davies
- Jack Evans
- Sam Fisher
- Daren Hawkes

Dover slap £250,000 price tag on star striker Birchall

SPECULATION linking Adam Birchall with a summer move away from Dover Athletic has already begun after the club slapped a £250,000 price tag on the prolific striker.

The ex-Arsenal trainee has enjoyed a stunning season, scoring 41 goals in all competitions before this weekend. It includes goals against Gillingham and Aldershot Town in the Whites' FA Cup run to the third round.

Dover managed to keep him during the January transfer window, but although Birchall still has another two years left on his contract, the chances of a move up the pyramid are high.

Gillingham boss Andy Hessenthaler watched Dover's goalless draw at Havant on Monday, prompting Dover chairman Jim Parmenter to make it clear it would take an offer of around £250,000 to prise Birchall away.

Martin Hayes, Dover's manager, believes the former Barnet hitman has what it takes to succeed on a return to the Football League.

Pictures: ADY KERRY

TARGET: Adam Birchall is worth £250,000 according to Dover

He said: "The way he's played this season, particularly against the Football League sides, shows he's got the quality and is good enough. You've seen players like [Peterborough duo] Craig Mackail-Smith and George Boyd who came out of non-league into the Football League for those sorts of figures. Adam's a different sort of player, but he's just as good.

"It would need a big figure and the club would have to play a certain way – there would be no point him going somewhere if they were just going to smash it long."

Birchall has continued to plunder Conference South defences despite months of rumours linking him with a transfer. Hayes insists the club want to hang on to their prized asset, but believes the striker's record makes interest from above inevitable.

He said: "He's committed to Dover and works very hard, he's not a 'big time Charlie' at all. We have never touted him around, but it's up to other clubs to value him. If a league club came along we'd have to look at it. We just have to wait and see what happens."

FA meeting to discuss new step six division

THE viability of establishing a new football division in the county in time for next season will be discussed by the Football Association next week.

Plans to set up a new division have been years in the making, but are now close to becoming a reality.

Kent is one of the few areas in the country without access to a competition at step six in the pyramid, providing an obstacle to clubs moving up and down the system.

All 28 clubs who expressed an interest in joining had their grounds assessed by February. Of those, 10 have dropped out of the process due to insurmountable problems over improving their grounds, but 18 teams would still create a sustainable league.

The division's steering group meet with the FA's leagues committee on Tuesday, to report on the work needed to bring grounds up to scratch.

The outcome will be critical to hopes of setting the league up in time for August.

One club watching proceedings with great interest will be Ashford United. The Nuts & Bolts have not played senior football since dropping out of the Ryman League as Ashford Town last summer. They have now re-registered as Ashford United, but it is unclear which division they will play in next season, with step six a possible destination.

Pictures: IGOR KUPCO

NEW ERA: Ashford United (formerly Town) could join the new division

Club owner Tony Betteridge and managing director Paul Bowden-Brown met with the leagues committee on Monday.

Betteridge said: "The general feeling with Paul was it went well. The FA are not in a position to decide [on which league Ashford are placed into] until May, because they need to see how promotions and demotions go at the end of the season."

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retail therapy

APRIL 2011

Let nature inspire your style to shine through

The disco glam of the Seventies is back

Look special this spring

PULL OUT SUPPLEMENT

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

welcome to retail therapy

It is, of course, the time when fashion and style come into their own. After the cold, dreary months of winter, we can forget about our clothes being practical or functional.

It's spring, and it's time to let our creative dreams and desires run riot – and there's nowhere better to showcase our tastes than in the clothes we wear.

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And just a very short distance away, there's Lakeside in Thurrock for yet more choice.

Additionally, don't forget the independent retailers, which can offer so much individuality.

And that's where Retail Therapy comes in. This first edition is a celebration of the extraordinary array of shopping opportunities available to people living in Kent.

It is a colourful collection of what the different centres have to offer combined with tips and guidance on what's cool, what's hot and – quite simply – how to look your very best.

We hope you savour reading Retail Therapy as much as we've enjoyed putting it together.

thisissue

3 The spring look

5 Bright and bold

6 It's nature's way

8 Back to the Seventies

12 The trendiest jackets

15 Celebrate your shape

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Spring into a season of rich colour

Give your wardrobe a new lease of life with spring and summer fashions. We reveal how to tap into the hottest trends of the new season.

By **Lisa Haynes**

WINTER blues still lingering into early spring? Fear not, the real sunshine months are just a hop, skip and jump away and the fashion for the summer season is more uplifting than ever.

If fruity prints, super brights and Studio 54 glamour don't see off the winter gloom, nothing will.

Embrace the top trends to put a spring in your step.

Luisa De Paula, buying and merchandising director for my-wardrobe.com, reveals her easy-to-wear tips to make your transformation to summer goddess a cinch.

Dazzling brights

Make a splash with this season's paintbox colour palette of rainbow brights and acid neons.

Worn as a bold head-to-toe hue, or clashing colours, this is the easiest way to warm your wardrobe for the season.

"Embrace this season's brights with neon pinks and cobalt blues in a simple shift dress or team an orange T-shirt or tank with mustard shorts and a red belt," De Paula suggests.

For an easy take on the trend, contrast your chosen shade against black or white or use an eye-catching bright accessory for a pop of colour.

Seventies chic

There's always a decade that dominates the catwalks but this season the fashion world has been well and truly seduced by Seventies fever.

From button-through denim skirts and safari suits through to floaty flares and wide-brimmed hats, transport yourself back in a style time machine.

De Paula says: "Seventies is one of the biggest stories for this season. Invest in jumpsuits, maxi dresses, flare and boot cut jeans and trousers, and elongate those legs with a killer platform shoe or wedge."

From relaxed hippy style to Studio 54 glamour, the decade is jam-packed with retro inspirations so you can channel a different Seventies icon every day.

Natural beauty

No nudes or neutral shades in sight for this trend. Grab your binoculars and take your cue from a wild tropical garden with bold insect, fruity or floral references.

"When Prada and Stella McCartney's collections were unveiled, fruit prints became the surprise hit of the season," De Paula explains. "Vibrant banana and cherry prints feature alongside bold florals."

Ditch the dainty look and stick to eye-catching bright prints to blossom.

Keep your accessories pared down to let your extravagant printwork do all the talking, or look for printed accessories for a subtle flutter of wildlife.

Smart sports

Don't fret if your gym membership hit the skids in the first week of January.

Some of that redundant sportswear might just translate into this season's slick sporty look. In reality, the look is more runway minimalist than running track sweaty.

De Paula reveals: "One of the more relaxed spring/summer trends, luxurious summer knits are layered over shorts and loose slacks. Cropped jackets are given a modern, sporty edge with toggles and mesh detailing."

Maxi magic

If shorts and minis aren't for you, maximise your look with floor-sweeping dresses and skirts.

From parachute silk dresses through to no-fuss column styles, maxi lengths have real longevity for the season ahead.

"There's a move from the usual boho styling to more of an elegant and cool look by layering knits and plain colour T-shirts over maxi skirts and smartening up long dresses with belts and blazers," suggests De Paula.

at Topshop
www.topshop.com
Picture: PA Photo/Top Shop

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The future's bright – so step into the light

Break out the sunglasses and embrace block brights. Lisa Haynes explores how to introduce bold colour to your spring wardrobe.

NO matter if the sun is being a little shy this spring, the fashion gods have just the brightening tonic.

From canary yellow, shocking pink and zingy tangerine to neons, if you dare, colour blocking is the craze that's sending shop floors into rainbow bright territory.

Forget the nudes, neutrals and bland shades of winter, the technique of clashing bright separates together is this season's biggest colour craze.

Catwalks were awash with bold hues, from sumptuous jewel tones at Gucci through to garish neons at Christopher Kane. There were top-to-toe colour splashes at Lanvin and Miu Miu, plus mix'n'match shades at Jil Sander and Diane Von Furstenberg.

Designer Roksanda Illinic said: "I think the move towards bright colour is a natural reaction to the predominance of neutral colours we have seen for a while."

So ditch your dark side and lighten up this spring with a riot of dazzling colour.

Shade shy

Blinkered towards super-safe black? Open your eyes to just how flattering colour can be.

"Through clever combinations the right colours can give the impression of a slimmer you," reveals Colour Me Beautiful's Veronique Henderson.

As a general rule, wear darker colours on your problem zones and place brighter punchy shades on your best assets as a distraction method.

One colour from head to toe also gives the illusion of height, if you're lacking in the feet and inches department.

Start off the easy way by choosing a piece in one vibrant shade, such as a dress. As your style bravery soars, introduce accessories in different block colours such as a bag or shoes. Before you know it, you'll be positively addicted to colour.

Blockbuster

If your experimental side is itching to get 'colour blocking', you can expect endless wardrobe choices - and compliments.

Henderson says: "Careful consideration of how you put colours together will not only help to make you look slimmer, but create a workable wardrobe of fewer clothes with more wearable combinations."

The simplest way to work brights this season is via a shirt in one bold colour. Stay safe by teaming with a wearable neutral skirt or trousers, or be playful and contrast with a contrasting colour separate for a trend-led look.

If the thought of colour combining seems like hard work, look for a statement piece that does all the blocking for you, mixing together bold panels of all your favourite shades.

Colour creative

Those who are already self-confessed colour magpies will need to up the ante to stand out from the crowd.

Brace yourself - the colour palette of choice for anti-wallflowers is neon.

"Fluoro colour has traditionally been associated with street fashion and the youth market," explains Vogue fashion director Lucinda Chambers. "But this season fluoro grew up, from the vivid laser-cut leather at Christopher Kane to the feminine brights at Proenza Schouler."

The key to working super-brights is clean, elegant cuts that will stop you looking like an overgrown teenager.

Turn heads with a full-on neon ensemble or simply introduce shots of eye-popping colour with accessories. If you want to go somewhere in between, look for an easy-wear staple like a top that will add instant punch to any outfit.

Rainbow brights

Tempted to add an injection of colour to your wardrobe? Henderson from Colour Me Beautiful has this advice on the summery shades to be seen in:

Beautiful blues: A safe colour most people enjoy wearing. It's also known to have healing and calming effects on the wearer.

Radiant reds: Reds are wonderfully energising colours - a red raincoat is a great addition to any wardrobe to cheer up a dull day.

Sublime citrus: These are sunshine colours; if they don't work with your colouring, try lighter greens to achieve the same effect.

Sea greens: Warm greens have a yellow undertone while cool greens tend to be more blue. These tropical shades like aqua and turquoises lift any neutrals.

Pretty pinks: Every woman needs feminine pinks in her wardrobe but getting the right shade is essential to avoid looking too girly.

Model on the catwalk at the Gucci Spring-Summer 2011 show, during fashion week in Milan, Italy
Picture: AP Photo/Antonio Calanni/PA Photos

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Follow nature's way to **new heights of fashion**

Mimic an overgrown garden with this season's trend for blooms, bugs and birds. Lisa Haynes goes on fashion's nature trail.

Bird print top
£22

at Next
www.next.co.uk
Picture: PA Photo/Next

NATURE has always been a big inspiration for spring trends, but this season designers have gone utterly wild for it.

Forget dainty blooms and freshly mown lawns and think bountiful overgrown back garden.

Catwalks came alive for spring, with a fully fertilised reference to all things natural – bold fruits, super-sized blooms, birds in flight and oh-so fashionable bug infestations.

Celebrities Alexa Chung, Rihanna and Lily Allen have all been sporting garden-esque print gowns on the red carpets.

Essentially, this is a trend that's all about having fun with prints.

Steer well clear if you're more of a wallflower, an injection of these larger-than-life patterns is the easiest way to wake up your wardrobe this season.

British summertime is officially under way so take inspiration from the great outdoors and pack a punch with your favourite print. Whether you're a fruity girl or a floral fanatic, there's a mini trend to suit.

If you usually stick to block colour, go wild this season and follow fashion's nature trail. No hiking boots necessary.

Fruit cocktail

Tangerine, lime and lemon aren't only hot colours for this season, the fruit brigade have made their mark on prints too.

While Prada had fun with bold bananas, Stella McCartney wowed with citrus fruits and things got a little juicy at Betsey Johnson with strawberry, pineapple and grape references.

These mouth-watering fruity prints add a retro edge to spring pieces. Think Katy Perry kitsch and you're on the right track.

Go as bold as you dare with this look, from dainty

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berries and cherries to super-sized lemons and apples.

If you like the concept but think you'll look more 'fruitcake' than fruity fashionista, use accessories. And if Charlotte Olympia's £950 fruit platforms push your budget, try the affordable range of fruity trinkets and charms on the high street to add a quirky edge.

Winged wonder

Creatures of the sky will have you flying to the top of the style charts this summer.

Butterflies and birds are the carefree way to do this season's natural selection.

Alexander McQueen's catwalk gowns and heels flaunted life-sized butterfly appliqués and Miu Miu showcased a graceful swan print dress.

Fear not if you feel like a shy fashion chrysalis, these prints are much more subtle than other nature-inspired trends with repetitive mini swallow patterns or sheer, delicate butterfly looks.

Forget structured workwear-style pieces, this trend works best with casual looks like floaty summer dresses or blouses for a nod to Seventies hippy chic.

Watch the birdie; if you want to go more adventurous with the aviary obsession, you'll be tweeting for joy with bolder bird-of-prey prints.

Bug life

No matter if you have an aversion to creepy-crawlies. Keep the bug spray and fly swat at bay because insects are this season's surprise fashion hit.

With flowers and fruits big on the nature trail of prints, it's no surprise that insects have crawled their way into this season's fashion agenda.

Fun and unusual, even arachnophobics and insect squealers can indulge in this quirky print trend.

From teeny ladybirds and dainty dragonflies to eye-catching bugs and beetles, just make sure your insects are colourful. Go too monochromatic or dark and you're at risk of stepping into spooky Halloween territory. This season's insects are ideal for curvy girls who should avoid extremely busy prints and opt for scattered styles to flatter your figure.

Floral bouquet

There's only one way to come up smelling of roses this season... super-sized blooms. These floral prints look like they've spent a Mediterranean summer growing in a hothouse.

Erdem, D&G and Cacharel's catwalks were blooming with vibrant colour using uber-bold florals, and the high street has followed suit with overgrown-style prints.

Just like a wild bouquet, this is one trend where mixing up your blooms by clashing two different prints can look like a professional arrangement if put together well – just make sure the colours and tones still complement each other without being too matchy-matchy.

Take inspiration from Alexander McQueen's applique and try pop-up flower details on occasionwear dresses or shoes for a real summer talking point.

Who needs a man to buy you flowers when you've got a whole fashion garden to pick from?

Multi bug print vest
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at Dorothy Perkins
www.dorothyperkins.com
Picture: PA Photo/Dorothy Perkins

H! By Henry Holland fruit print vest
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at Debenhams
www.debenhams.com
Picture: PA Photo/Debenhams

What goes around comes around

Step into a style time machine and transport yourself back to the hippy boho and disco glamour of the Seventies.

By **Lisa Haynes**

IF there's one trend dominating this season's silhouettes, colours and accessories, it's the spirit of the Seventies.

Designers went back in time with a catwalk tribute to the era featuring big flares, big hair and even bigger floppy hats and platform soles.

While Marc Jacobs, Louis Vuitton and Pucci flaunted glamorous brights and disco hedonism, the likes of Etro and Ferragamo opted for stripped back safari neutrals.

"I learned about fashion during the Seventies," Jacobs said of his influential spring/summer collection.

"There's a beautiful, decadent kind of glamour to that period, so it felt right and fresh to revisit it for young women who didn't experience it the first time."

Don't be put off if you were digging the original trend in your heyday - this season is a stylish celebration of the decade with a modern spin.

From Studio 54 disco to relaxed boho, the era is packed with different inspirations to suit your style.

Try transforming your wardrobe into a Boogie Wonderland of Seventies chic.

Disco glam

Crank up the Donna Summer songs and find your inner disco diva, this take on the trend is all about Seventies glamazons.

'More is more' was Marc Jacobs's mantra as he transformed his catwalk into a dance-floor of warm bright colours and vivid lurex prints, styled to the max with wild crimped hair, oversized accessories and glitter.

Think Studio 54 and jazz up your evening wear this summer with jewel colours, slinky jumpsuits and glamorous Halston-inspired maxi dresses, topped off with lashings of gold.

Essential items: *One shoulder jumpsuit, lurex jersey, shiny gold accessories.*

Slick safari

The Seventies wasn't all garish colours and floaty fabrics. Appease the practical side in you with the urban-safari trend.

For a twist on bland office suiting for the summer months, try camel tailoring complete with utility detailing such as a belted waist and endless pockets.

Take inspiration from fashion house Etro who mixed up geometric detailing with colour blocking in a neutral palette of tobacco, chestnut brown, mustard yellow, and burnt ochre.

Keep your silhouette long and lean with leg-lengthening cork or wooden wedges that look equally as fabulous with flared trousers or safari-style rolled up legs.

Essential items: *Safari trouser suit, mustard shirt, towering wedges.*

Hippy chic

Embrace your bohemian side with a fresh take on the laid-back Seventies.

Flowing folksy dresses and paisley prints have merged with punk rock to give the classic hippy a modern grunge edge.

The Topshop Unique catwalk looked like Grace Coddington (the retro creative director of American Vogue) tinged with Kate Moss as models strode out in floaty kaftans teamed with skinny trousers and floaty maxi dresses featuring sexy splits.

Go prairie punk by adding a dark suede fringed waistcoat to your outfit. Whatever your take on boho, give a big nod to the trend with this summer's must-have statement accessory, a wide brimmed floppy hat.

Essential items: *Print maxi dress, fringed waistcoat, floppy hat.*

Love story

If you're daunted by thoughts of Seventies hippies and excess, take inspiration from movie icon Ali MacGraw with understated Love Story-style chic.

Utilise your denim collection if you favour a more simplistic look. Think high-waisted flares teamed with a simple white blouse, as seen at Derek Lam or, once you're feeling brave enough for bare legs, try an A-line button-down denim skirt.

Long, fluid lines with pleat midi skirts will also tap into the minimalist mood. But maintain your Seventies-esque feel with mega-chunky platforms or cork-soled heels.

Essential items: *A-line denim skirt, white blouse, platform heels.*

at River Island
www.riverisland.com
Picture: PA Photo/River Island

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Georgia blouse, multi-stone necklace, jungle pants £34.99, raffia weave sandals £64.99 from River Island

Navy shopper £28 from Next

Jacket £75, t-shirt £18, chinos £35, deck shoes £65 from Jasper Conran at Debenhams

Red sandles £22.99 from New Look

Floral wellies £16 from Peacocks

Bhs Bonmarché Specsavers DEBENHAMS H&M jane norman

Photographs courtesy of individual retailers
Below: clothes model's own

STYLE

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Here at County Square in Ashford we have a great selection of fashion stores to help you update your spring and summer wardrobe, whatever your budget.

This season features a huge range of styles that go from vintage lace and sheer fabrics to an explosion of colour with floral prints and styles heavily influenced by the 1970s. But make sure you also include some key pieces featuring dominant stripes.

Rose print clutch bag
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Judge a look

Ditch the heavy overcoat and embrace the new season with a spring-friendly jacket. Lisa Haynes reveals this season's ultimate outerwear.

at Next
www.next.co.uk
Picture: PA Photo/Next

ALL eyes might be on Kate Middleton's impending wedding dress but, while we wait patiently for April 29, her choice of outerwear is keeping us fashionably entertained.

One of the future princess's most recent royal visit ensembles, a £650 Burberry trench coat, sold out within a day due to copycat demand - dubbed the 'Middleton effect'.

Worn accessorised with her trademark black boots, she deemed her coat stylish enough to be worn solo - buttoned right through without so much as a glimpse of her outfit underneath.

Model presents an outfit by Burberry Prorsum at London Fashion Week.
Picture: AP Photo / Alastair Grant / PA Photos

by its cover

Until it's warm enough to go sans le jacket in high summer, your spring cover-up is just as important as your winter coat in being the first thing that anyone sees. And without the need for warmth insulation, spring jackets offer even more room for experimentation with on-trend silhouettes and dramatic shades.

This season has seen an influx of rainbow bright macs and bold print trenches on the high street to make choosing your outfits even easier in the mornings.

With jackets this good, make like Kate and let your outerwear do all the talking.

The classic

Meet the trench, the transitional wonder that will never fade out of fashion.

King of coats Burberry showcased a mac attack catwalk with every variation of the trench imaginable, from snake print to studded sleeves, proving this is one classic with versatility if you want to stray away from the norm.

If your hands are tied to the tried-and-tested model, keep your trench to a neutral tone and you'll have a spring coat that will complement just about any seasonal trend or colour - it looks just as fresh with party dresses as casual denims.

Trend tip: Try adding a block cork heel or wedge to adopt a Seventies Love Story vibe.

Bright and beautiful

There's only one way to stand out from the crowds this spring: get a talking point coat.

Whether it's an uber-bright shade or a punchy print, jackets have had a wallpaper-style makeover.

Think deckchair-inspired stripes, floral explosions and contrast colours if you dare. While Tommy Hilfiger opted for a tangerine trench, Kenzo's collection bloomed with a chrysanthemum print coat.

Unless you want to try the niche trend for clashing prints or bright colours, keep your outfit muted to make your busy jacket the main focus.

Trend tip: Update a tired neutral jacket by adding a splash of colour with a bright belt.

All-weather warrior

With festival season and April showers fast approaching, the high street has gone all practical with an array of weatherproof jackets.

More Glastonbury Festival than Fashion Week, you can adapt just about any trend to your favourite rain beater.

If you love brights, Topshop have a canary yellow shiny hooded mac (£45) that would make any Cornish fisherman green with envy.

It may not be intended as an everyday purchase, but with the turbulent British climate, you're sure to get plenty of wear.

Trend tip: Practical outerwear means you can go wild underneath - team with pretty dresses for a complete contrast.

Off duty chic

Sometimes you need a staple that separates your work wardrobe from your fun time fashion and this season it's the biker jacket.

Banish visions of harsh black leather and hardwear zips - this season's shapes come in soft putty shades like cornflower blue, pebble grey and soft peach.

Opt for butter-soft leather or suede in keeping with the casual chic as seen at Alexander Wang. He created a contemporary look by teaming slightly oversized bikers worn open with loose-knit sweaters and boyish cropped pants.

Trend tip: Need sparkle? Adopt some tough luxe with a smattering of multicoloured stud detailing.

Chelsea revival

It's been shelved for more than two decades but Chelsea Girl is due to hit shop floors again. The iconic label is being brought back by River Island - the retailer of the original name before it rebranded in the late 1980s. A temporary 'pop-up' Chelsea Girl shop was due to launch in Selfridges, while a new Chelsea Girl range of vintage-inspired pieces is available in selected stores and online, priced from £12 (www.riverisland.com).

Principles by Ben de Lisi stripe mac **£65**

at Debenhams
www.debenhams.com
Picture: PA Photo/Handout

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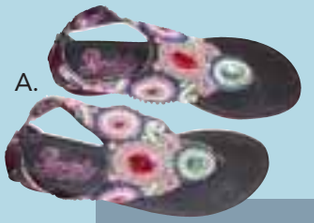

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Shape **up** or ship **out!**

Make the most of your attributes via your wardrobe. Lisa Haynes reveals the secrets to dressing for your body shape.

DON'T panic if your New Year diet resolve has already faltered.

The stick insect look is so 2010. This year, aim for a natural body shape and dress yourself slimmer instead.

It's no coincidence that curvy Kelly Brook recently topped a poll to discover the most attractive celebrity with almost half the votes (42 per cent) and voluptuous Nigella Lawson came in second.

Boobs and booty are back in vogue and if there's one phenomenon that's caused fashion designers to turn their back on waif-like frames, it's the Mad Men effect.

The show's star Christina Hendricks even put her assets to good use on the red carpet at the Golden Globes, stashing a borrowed $850,000 Chopard bracelet down her famous cleavage after misplacing it.

Costume designer for Mad Men, Janie Bryant's motto is "Praise your curves!".

"At the end of every year, most of us vow to jettison our vices and shed a few pounds," Bryant explains. "But what if you resolved instead to change the way you view your body."

"Finding the style and cut of clothes that suit you best comes from experimentation and knowing your body type," Bryant believes.

Body beautiful

She recommends taking 10 minutes in the mirror to scan yourself from head to toe and observe the outline of your body. Which part is slimmest and which is fullest?

"In order to accentuate those awesome contours, you must first familiarise yourself with your core shape - knowledge is power.

"Once you understand your natural silhouette, it's easy enough to enhance assets or make some nips and tucks with the right wardrobe."

In her new book, The Fashion File, Bryant identifies the four key shapes and, just like a New Year diet, the staples you should be indulging in - and avoiding - for a flattering figure.

Your mirror awaits. Determine your body type and check whether your trusty wardrobe separates are flattering your frame...

Delicious apple

"A woman who is an apple carries most of her weight in her midsection," Bryant explains. "This imbalance can make you look shorter and wider if you don't counteract the proportions."

Your goal is to minimise your tummy and draw eyes to your fabulous legs.

Wardrobe staples: A-line shift dresses, short skirts, blouses with a gently curved waistline, single-button jackets, wrap shirts/dresses and wide-legged trousers. Try long fitted shirts and sweaters that fall to the hips to disguise a full midriff.

Succulent pear

"Just as it sounds, a woman with a pear-shape body stores most of her weight below the waistline," Bryant says.

"Fuller hips and thighs contrast with narrow shoulders, a smaller bust and a slim midriff."

Aim to detract from the hips - the widest point of your silhouette - and focus on your fantastic arms and shoulders.

Wardrobe staples: A-line or full skirts, brightly coloured shirts, patterned blouses and jackets that skim the waist. Flat-front trousers with a wide leg that skim the hips will help make you look taller.

Slim ruler

"The woman with an athletic, lean build has fewer curves and more of a straight up-and-down figure," says Bryant.

And the good news? "You can wear almost anything."

If you feel your shape is boyish, create some contours and add femininity to your athletic silhouette by accentuating the waist.

Wardrobe staples: Bias-cut jackets, pencil skirts, trapeze dresses, slim-cut trousers. Baby-doll and pussy-bow blouses will inject girliness while belts - skinny or wide - define your waist.

Curvy hourglass

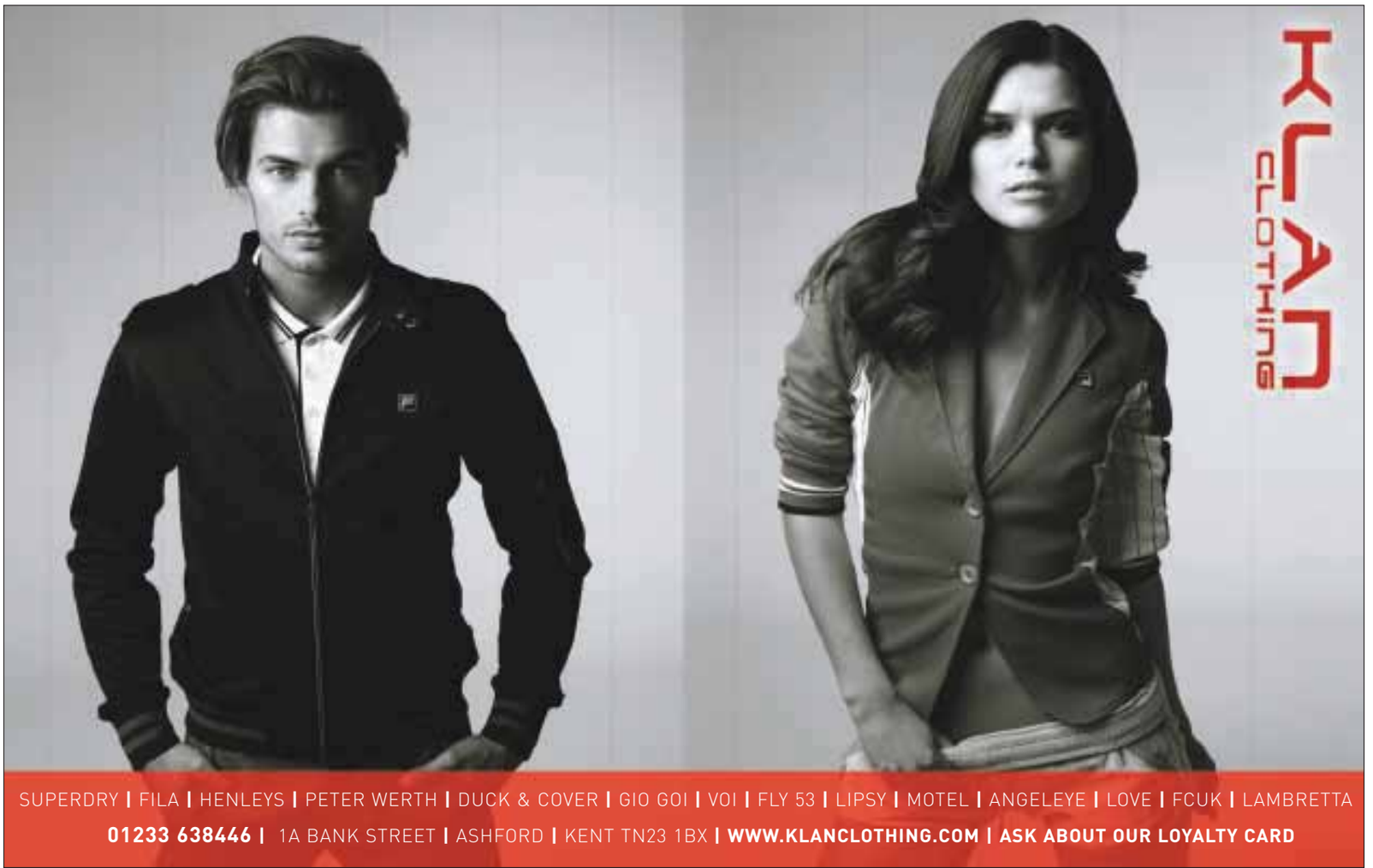
"You have deliciously symmetrical curves, with an exaggerated bust and hip line," Bryant reveals.

"That narrow waist only heightens the va-va-voom silhouette."

Show off your waist and let it be the focal point of your Jessica Rabbit-style body.

Wardrobe staples: Wrap tops and blouses that nip at the waist, flat-front trousers with a boot-cut or flared bottom, belted jackets or coats. Don't forget a bra with amazing support.

Kelly Brook arriving for the 2010 British Fashion Awards at the Savoy Theatre, London
Picture: Ian West/PA Photos



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